FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 DECEMBER 1985

Syrian-Iraqi Relations

The Soviet Union will "resume its mediation efforts" between Syria and Iraq, according to "informed Arab sources" cited by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN*. The sources asserted that Soviet official Karen Brutents will "present the efforts of his country" when he visits Damascus 30 December.

Lebanon

The tripartite agreement is now in its "final form" and is expected to be signed "within a few days," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meeting in Damascus 25 December with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Tripartite Committee overcame the "last obstacle," according to "committee sources," with a compromise plan that calls for the chamber of deputies to define the transitional period.

Israel

Although he has yet to respond to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' request for a written clarification of Taba arbitration issues, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a verbal message to Peres that was described by "well-informed sources" as being "formulated in a positive way," IDF radio revealed. In another development, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated Israel's policy of not dealing with the abductors of Jews in other countries, Jerusalem radio reported. Israel will "seek to protect" Jews abroad, the minister said, but will not allow terrorists "to extort anything" by turning them into hostages.

PLO Affairs

The PLO Executive Committee, meeting in Tunis 24 December, decided to call for an immediate Arab summit to consider a "pan-Arab position" on the Middle East peace process, the PLO representative in Cairo said in remarks cited by MENA.

Libya

A "responsible source" informed JANA that the Committee for Clearing the Arab Atmosphere has "failed," adding that the committee's request that Libya be the first "to halt the propaganda campaigns" was refused.

In another development, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki to visit the Mali and Burkina Faso leaders in an effort to help "calm the situation" that has arisen over the two countries' border dispute, JANA reported.

Iran-Iraq War

A Joint Staff communique reported by IRNA announced that Iranian planes attacked an Iraqi troop concentration north of Al-'Amarah 24 December, inflicting "considerable" casualties, but an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA claimed that antiaircraft fire forced the Iranian planes to flee without carrying out their mission. Meanwhile, General Command communiques carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported that Iraqi planes successfully raided Khark Isiand 24 December and effectively attacked large maritime targets 24 and 25 December.

Algeria

The trial of Abdelawheb Ben Chennouf and those accused with him of state security offenses ended 25 December with Ben Chennouf and 2 other defendants sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison, 16 sentenced to up to 13 years imprisonment, and 21 acquitted, Algiers radio announced.

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USSR Offers To Mediate Between Syria, Iraq

Gorbachev Expresses 'Readiness'

JN241829 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed his readiness to mediate between Syria and Iraq to reconcile them. A diplomatic source in the Syrian capital says that Gorbachev expressed this readiness in a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday.

An official Syrian source had earlier said that President Hafiz al-Asad received Gorbachev's letter when he met the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-WATAN* says that the principle of Gorbachev's mediation between Iraq and Syria was agreed on during President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow last week. The paper adds that a high-level Soviet official will leave for Damascus next Monday for this purpose.

Support for Iran 'Encouraging' War

GF241832 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Dec 85 pp 1, 17

[Muhammad Sa'id Dalbah report]

[Text] *AL-WATAN* has learned from informed Arab sources that the Soviet Union has decided to resume its mediation efforts between Iraq and Syria. This is because the Soviet Union views seriously the threats against the two countries in light of the current Israeli-U.S. threats against Syria and the recent Iranian threats against Iraq. The sources said: This issue was discussed during Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow at the end of last week. The sources pointed out that Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, will visit Damascus on Monday to present the efforts of his country in this regard.

The sources recalled that the Soviet Union, which has previously made use of all opportunities to limit the differences between the two countries, and in the talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during his visit to Moscow in June, presented its stance stressing the importance of "ending the Iraq-Iran war and achieving stability in the Gulf."

The sources said that the Soviet Union describes the Iraq-Iran war as futile and causing great damage to the Arab issue. It also causes serious material damage to both people and destroys their material and cultural values and their national resources. In addition, this war serves no one but the imperialist forces which intend to shake security in the region and to start sectarian wars. The sources said that therefore the Soviets believe that the current Syrian-Iranian alliance is encouraging Iran to continue the war with Iraq. The sources said that the Soviet Union insists on rejecting the calls of some for changing the current regime in Iraq. These calls are in response to Iran's demand as one of the conditions to end the war. The same sources said that the Soviet Union believes that such calls are unrealistic, not only because they are regarded as interference in the domestic affairs of an independent and sovereign country, but also because any change in the current regime in Iraq will contribute to creating an unbalanced situation in the region. This would be similar to the current situation in Iran, since it is difficult to deal with religious regimes.

PLO Sources Say 'Arafat Ill, May Go to Moscow

NC251006 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] PLO sources in Tunis have reported that Yasir 'Arafat is ill, and that Soviet doctors are expected to arrive in Tunis to treat him. 'Arafat may then go to Moscow for further treatment.

'Political Ailment' Denied

GF250814 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* reported today that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, is suffering from acute pain caused by inflamation. Citing Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, the paper said that 'Abd al-Wahab al-Majali, the Jordanian deputy prime minister who recently visited 'Arafat, proposed placing a special plane at his disposal to bring him to Al-Husayn Medical City in Amman to receive treatment, but he did not accept the offer.

Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] denied that 'Arafat suffers from a political ailment.

PLO's 'Arafat Sends Message to Gorbachev

LD251301 Tunis TAP in English 1150 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Dec (TAP) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee conveyed to the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunis, during his meeting with him yesterday at noon, the PLO's gratitude to Mr Gorbachev on his message to the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, in which he affirmed the Soviet principled stances vis-a-vis the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including its right to self determination and the establishment of its independent state over its national soil.

'Arafat has also expressed his appreciation for the Soviet commitment to the idea of convening an international conference with the participation of all the parties, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On this occasion 'Arafat asked the Soviet charge d'affaires to convey a personal message to Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership revolving around the latest developments in the Middle East region.

PLO Rejects Mubarak's Deadline on UN Resolutions

GF250954 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has asserted the PLO's rejection of the statement made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak which demands that the PLO recognize UN Resolutions 243 and 338 within 1 or 2 months.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* published today, Al-Wazir described these statements as coming within the framework of continuous pressures and media campaigns which try to make the PLO look like it is being driven into the corner and that it has to choose between rejection or approval of the two UN resolutions. He emphasized that the PLO is not in such a terrible situation that it has to recognize these resolutions as some believe. He said that the PLO is committed to the nationalist standards which are represented in the resolutions of the Palestine National Councils, and that it is still the basic and hard factor in the Middle East issue.

Al-Wazir inquired about the reasons that made the Arabs demand that the PLO retract its positions when they do not concentrate their efforts on the United States and Israel to force them to make concessions in their positions on Palestinian rights.

Khalil al-Wazir also criticized the Arab position toward the recent statements of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in which he stressed his country's refusal to recognize the PLO even if it recognizes Resolutions 242 and 338. He confirmed that the PLO's adherence to its position on the two resolutions is based on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He termed the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a penetration of the political stalemate that has engulfed the Palestinian issue in the international arena.

The Palestinian official called on all Palestinian resistance factions to meet on the road of national unity regardless of how different their views are, because the issue pertains to the fate of the Palestinian people and because there is no need to set conditions prior to the national meeting. He said that all views can be discussed at the table of national dialogue with the aim of unifying the Palestinian ranks.

Sources Refrain From Official Comment

GF251055 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Palestinian sources in Tunis have refrained from making any official comment on the statement of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has a period of 2 months at most to recognize UN Resolution 242, or else he will be the major loser.

A Palestinian official in Tunis, who asked to remain anonymous, has stated that the PLO will refrain from comenting on the statement of the Egyptian president until it studies the official text.

PLO Official on Reconciliation With Syria

NC261042 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, Dec 26 (AFP) — A reconciliation is possible very soon between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syria after recent talks, a Palestinian leader, Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, said in a Saudi daily appearing here today.

He was the second Central Committee member from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group to indicate recent contacts with Syria, which has backed anti-'Arafat Palestinian groups. The other was Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Mr al-Natshah, the PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, said today in an interview in the Saudi daily *AL-SHARQ AL AWSAT*, which has a Paris edition, that there were no major differences between the PLO and Syria.

He added it was "impossible" the PLO would take up Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's appeal on Monday for it to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, passed in 1967 and 1973 and implying recognition of Israel.

Resolution 242, the key UN Middle East resolution, ignored the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and considered their rights null and void, Mr al-Natshah said.

But he also believed the media had interpreted Mr Mubarak's remarks badly, as reliable contacts indicated Egypt was well aware of 242's shortcomings.

Egypt-Jordan-PLO Summit To Be Held Within '2 Weeks'

GF261048 Doha QNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Dec (QNA) — Press reports in Kuwait today said that a tripartite summit will be held in Cairo within 2 weeks between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The reports, which were published by the newspaper *AL-RAY AL-'AMM*, quoted Cairo sources which they described as high-level as saying that special preparations for this meeting were completed several days ago and that Egyptian-Palestinian-Jordanian contacts have ended in agreement by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to attend the meeting.

The paper added that the summit will consider issuing an invitation to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East and determining the parties which will receive such an invitation.

PNSF Calls for 'Broader National Unity'

JN241423 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — In a statement issued today, the leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] called for broader national unity among all the Palestinian

nationalist factions, forces, and figures that are committed to the national charter and the legitimate PNC resolutions in order to topple the course of deviation and capitulation as a prelude to regaining the PLO's unity and national line that is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and reactionary schemes.

The statement points out that the PNSF leadership has formed a committee in order to hold the required contacts and dialogue with the Palestinian nationalist forces, factions, and figures with the aim of achieving this broad national unity.

The PNSF leadership praised the firm and principled stand of Syria, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Palestine question. This stand was affirmed in the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the meetings of the three countries' foreign ministers in Tripoli.

The front's leadership hailed the stand of the three countries, affirming that it will remain faithful to the revolution's principles until our people's objectives are achieved. The leadership also affirmed that it will remain concerned about and committed to its Arab and international alliances.

PLO Groups Claim Responsibility for Israeli Blasts

In Hadera

NC251618 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1603 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Nicosia, 25 Dec (MENA) — The PLO has claimed responsibility for the explosion that took place at the central power station in the city of Hadera in Israel.

A Palestinian military spokesman said that a Palestinian group detonated highly explosive charges inside the station. This, he added, led to the destruction of one of the main generators and to enormous damages to the station. He further said that power to Hadera and surrounding cities and settlements had been cut off and that many employees of the station were killed or wounded.

The spokesman reported that Israeli forces rushed to the area, closed all access to the city, and began a wide-scale search operation.

In 'Afula

JN251839 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1651 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

The martyr Taysir al-Shihabi group, which is operating inside the occupied homeland, managed to detonate a timed explosive charge in front of a border guard roadblock set up by the enemy in the city of 'Afula to watch and search the Palestinian citizens. The explosion occurred at 1050 on 24 December 1985, wounding many of the soldiers manning the Zionist roadblock. Ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the explosion to remove the wounded. The Zionist forces closed off the area immediately and combed it in search of other explosive charges. At the same time, the soldiers manning the Zionist roadblocks arrested scores of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of being connected with the operation. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command.

In Erez

JN251914 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1651 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

Our revolutionary heroes continue to strike at the Zionist enemy's vital and military targets every day so that the operations cover all of occupied Palestine. They shell settlements in the north with rockets and strike at enemy patrols in Gaza, (Al-Burayj), and Khan Yunus in the south as well at important, vital enemy targets in Tel Aviv, Kafr Saba, Bitah Tikva, Bayt Sahur, adn Jerusalem. More than 43 military operations have been carried out since the beginning of December.

On 22 December 1985, our heroes from the martyr Colonel Abu al-Futuh unit carried out an important, heroic operation similar to that carried out by our revolutionaries at the beginning of this month against the Zionist army headquarters northeast of Nabulus. The group moved toward their target after avoiding all the security barriers and measures in an area north of the occupied city of Gaza. They managed to place explosive charges in a bus station in the industrial settlement of Erez which was established by the enemy north of the city of Gaza. The explosion occured at 2315, starting a huge fire in dozens of buses and fuel tanks as well as in the offices of the Egged company and the Dan military company. The fire also reached some factories near the bus station. Despite the efforts by the Zionist firemen who came from Ashqelon and Tel Aviv, The fire contniued until 23 December.

On 24 December 1985, a Zionist military spokesman admitted the oepration and the enemy losses, including more than 100 buses at the station. He said that the Zionist security forces arrested the fedayeen group which had carried out the operation. This announcement, which affirms the failure of all the Zionist security measures in the face of our revolutionaries' escalating strikes, also proves that the Zionist claim about arresting the perpetrators is a Zionist treachery to belittle the importance of this operation and to show the Zionist security forces' ability to follow our revolutionaries' movements. The Zionist security forces also arrested over 200 Palestinian citizens after the operation. This operation and the others that preceded it have affirmed that the Palestinian military arm in the occupied land is able to carry out its combat tasks and to escalate the military operations approved by the PLO's military command. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command.

In Kafr Saba

JN241826 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following:

In accordance with instructions and following observation and surveillance operations, a special group from hero martyr Lieutenant Colonel Nur's unit managed to place explosive charges inside a station used for transporting Zionist soldiers near a Zionist police station in the settlement of Kafr Saba yesterday. The group then continued their movements to carry out their military operations. At 1350 yesterday, the explosive charges went off, with the following results: First, many enemy soldiers inside the station were wounded. Second, the station was completely destroyed and a number of buses sustained damage. Third, the window panes of the police station were shattered and the station sustained heavy damage. The enemy forces immediately sealed off the scene of the operation and conducted a large-scale combing operation in Kafr Saba in search of additional charges. The enemy police is also appealing to the Zionists through the media to report any suspicious objects and to take care in their movements. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command.

A military spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has also stated the following:

Our heroes from the martyr Shastri group operating inside the occupied homeland attacked a bus belonging to the Egged company at 1300 yesterday. The bus is used for military purposes, including the transportation of enemy soldiers on leave. The attack occurred as the bus passed near the township of Bayt Sahur. Our revolutionaries used incendiary bombs during the attack. A large part of the bus was burned by a bomb and the driver was seriously wounded. The enemy forces besieged the scene of the operation and conducted a combing campaign in pursuit of our revolutionaries, who returned safely to their bases. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command.

KUWAIT

Oil Official on 25 Dec Iranian Air Raid on Tanker

LD261015 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0928 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Dec (KUNA) — A senior Kuwaiti oil official today here confirmed that a Kuwaiti supertanker carrying Kuwaiti oil was the target of an Iranian air attack yesterday afternoon, while it was at anchor inside Qatari territorial waters. This was the second time in succession in the last 6 months. The chairman of the board of the Kuwaiti Tankers Company which belongs to the Kuwaiti Oil Corporation, 'Abd al-Fattah al-Badr, told KUNA that the Kuwaiti tanker *Al-Qadhima* was the target of an air attack from a helicopter with Iranian markings reading No. 302, at 1550 (local) yesterday afternoon. He said that the tanker *Al-Qadhima* was attacked while at anchor inside Qatari territorial waters 7 miles form the Hallul Island. It was carrying 290,000 metric tons of Kuwaiti oil destined for West European markets.

Al-Badr stressed that the Iranian helicopter fired an anti-armor missile at the *Al-Qadhima*'s port side by the bridge, but the attack resulted in no loss of life, and none of the crew was injured. The Kuwaiti official pointed out that the Iranian missile hit only one life boat on the port side of the tanker. Al-Badr said further that the tanker *Al-Qadhima* would resume its journey today to deliver its oil cargo to ports in West European countries, stressing that *Al-Qadhima* did not require any repairs because its bulwark was not hit. It is noted that this is the second time the tanker *Al-Qadhima* was the target of an attack by the Iranian Air Force; the first attack took place on 10 June. The *Al-Qadhima* is the largest Kuwaiti supertanker, with a 290,000 metric tons cargo.

Sabah al-Ahmad on Velayati Visit, Waite Mission

LD261123 KUNA in Arabic 0943 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] London, 26 Dec (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and foreign minister, expressed concern over the Gulf region becoming a scene of controntation between the superpowers. The latest issue of the magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* published in London quotes him as saying that this region always has been and will continue to be the subject of attention because it contains a large oil depot that constitutes a vital and strategic matter for the world. Asked by the magazine on what he thinks is the solution, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that on our part we have prepared ourselves for all eventualities, all that we the Gulf states, have to do is exert efforts to ensure that this region remains a gulf of peace benefiting everyone.

On the other hand, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad announced that Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, accepted an invitation to visit Kuwait, adding that Dr Velayati showed a clear understanding of Kuwait's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war during their meeting in New York on the sidelines of the recent Unga session. He said that I have found out that the brother Iranians have wrong information about the treatment of prisoners and members of the Iranian minority. The Kuwaiti acting prime minister and foreign minister further said that Kuwait is a democratic state living under the rule of the law and it can in no way bring anyone to account if they have not violated the law.

At the same time, the magazine quotes an informed Kuwaiti political source on the efforts made by Bishop Terry Waite to secure the release of the American hostages in Beirut by linking this operation to the release of prisoners convicted of bombing crimes in Kuwait. The source said that these are artificial efforts aimed at harming Kuwait and its free democratic system that has preserved its sovereignty and protected its rights. The source denies that contacts ever took place in this context at any level, stressing at the same time that "Kuwait will not permit this subject to be discussed because this would be interference in its affairs and sovereignty." The source stresses that Bishop Waite has tried to seek discussion of this subject but "we have closed the door in his face and we will do so in the future."

The magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* mentions Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's call for the Kuwaiti press to follow a balanced line as "it is not logical for our press to become a scene of confrontation between Arab political organizations and trends." He also firmly underlined that "we will not allow Kuwait to become another Lebanon."

PLO Official Hails Government Position on PLO

GF231404 Al-Shariqah AL-KHA'IJ in Arabic 23 Dec 85 pp 1, 16

[Text] Kuwait — In an exclusive statement to *AL-KHALIJ* Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has denied that the PLO intends to change its position rejecting Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council. The Fatah Central Committee member affirmed that this issue is not proposed for discussion now and that there is nothing prompting the PLO to recognize this resolution.

Asnwering a question by *AL-KHALIJ* Abu Iyad affirmed that it is correct that contacts are continuing between the PLO and Syria. He said that direct contacts are currently being made between the Palestinian leaders and the Syrian Government to eliminate differences on the various issues proposed for discussion. He indicated that the Palestinian-Palestinian reconciliation will be achieved through the Palestinian-Syrian rapprochement, for which the Arab nation is now calling for more than at any time before.

At the same time, Abu Iyad hailed Kuwait's position toward the national Arab issues and its support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their full legitimate rights. Salah Khalaf yesterday held a lengthy meeting with Ahmad al-Sa'dun, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. Palestinian sources close to Khalaf in Kuwait said that this seemed like a meeting for reconciliation between the PLO and Chairman Al-Sa'dun after the recent differences between the two parties. The meeting, which lasted for more than 1 and 1/2 hours, was attended by Salim al-Sa'nun, PNC deputy speaker, and 'Awni Battash, director of the PLO office in Kuwait.

Paper Criticizes Waite Statement on Convicts

GF251540 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Dec (WAKH) — A Kuwaiti daily Wednesday ridiculed recent statements of British Bishop Terry Waite blaming Kuwait for obstructing the release of white hostages in Lebanon.

AL-ANBA' said that Waite justified his claim by saying that Kuwait has refused to set free convicts in the explosion incidents that disturbed the countrys security and led to the fall of several victims.

Waite's charges are true; we absolutely refuse to release those who were convicted in a just and integral court that the whole world has witnessed was a model of the authority's practice of human and civilizational role through allocating all defense means in service of the defendants, the paper explained.

We are ready to call for releasing all convicts in the said case if Washington and Europe called for liberating Palestinian and *Achille Lauro* operations, and other Arabs topped by Sirhan Bisharah Sirhan and Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, the paper emphasized.

It added: Let others give us the example by setting free the innocent so that we would find reasons to discuss releasing the criminals.

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister Reviews Work of Cabinet Session

GF231918 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 23 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Cabinet session this afternoon. Following the meeting Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the SPA correspondent that his majesty the king opened this session with a valuable and comprehensive address on a number of domestic reformatory and organizational issues, particularly with regards to religious, information, and consultative affairs. The Cabinet considered that His Majesty's address was an honest expression of the great ambitions and supreme aspirations of his majesty. It was also a good instruction for the Kingdom to continue its roles and religious and political duties in a way to suit its spiritual position as it is the guide of the Muslims, their object of hope, and shelter of their hearts.

In this regard His Majesty said: We will not please anyone on the account of our belief and religion and we will not allow anyone to come to this country to commit acts that violate our religious laws or Islamic morals and inherited Arab traditions. Generosity of hospitality does not mean leniency in these matters.

His excellency the information minister stated that his majesty the king briefed the Cabinet on the negotiations he held with a number of envoys from sister Arab countries during the past 2 days. His majesty affirmed that the Kingdom is continuing its efforts aimed at clearing the Arab atmosphere. His excellency said: The Cabinet then looked into the transactions of this session's agenda.

The Cabinet reviewed the transaction by the Cabinet presidium court of the Cabinet which comprises a cable by his royal highness the foreign minister on cultural cooperation agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Somalia. The Cabinet issued an order authorizing his highness to sign this agreement and submit the original signed copy to the Cabinet to issue an approval and royal decree in this regard.

On the nearing of the date of signing the agreement to set the general establishment for Saudi-Bahraini causeway, over which the Cabinet previously issued an order authorizing his excellency minister of finance and national economy to sign it, the Cabinet looked into the final report prepared by His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl comprising all the rules and agreements to start implementing the Saudi laws in Saudi territories and waters defined by the agreement. The Cabinet approved the report.

His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir concluded his statement to the correspondent by saying: At the conclusion of this session the Cabinet also reviewed the address of his royal highness interior minister and issued an order appointing 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Hamad ibn Sulayman al-Suwaylim as assistant secretary general for the National Security Council at rank 15. The Cabinet also submitted a number of transactions to the concerned committees to complete its preparations and raise them in the coming sessions.

Minister Visits Turkey, Meets Prime Minister

For Ankara coverage of the visit to Turkey by Minister of Pilgrimage Affairs and Awqaf 'Abd al-Wahhab Ahmad 'Abd al-Wasi, including his meetings with Prime Minister Turgot Ozal and other officials, see the Turkey section of the 24 December *DAILY REPORT*.

'UKAZ Considers Shultz Statement on PLO

PM231411 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Dec 85

[Unattributed editorial: "Supporting Peace...or Israel?"]

[text] No sooner had the UN General Assembly passed its resolutions calling on all member states to stop all forms of transactions with Israel in view of its being a non-peace-loving country, when the Zionist entity yesterday announced that it will receive U.S. aid to the tune of $3.1 billion during the coming year and that there is an Israeli delegation in Washington to negotiate a further increase of $4 billion [as published].

Israel alleges that this aid is aimed at buttressing its deteriorating economy. Such claims are in fact merely a blackmail method aimed at obtaining more aid in addition to the military and economic grants and aid it is already receiving and also in addition to the emergency aid, all of which add up to astronomical figures.

We all know that such aid does not serve the press process in the Middle East since Israel never stopped committing all sorts of

Zionist aggressive and criminal actions which the world community and peoples have condemned.

Perhaps the United States realizes more than anybody else that such aid will not succeed in changing the Zionist aggressive strategy or make it budge even one inch in the direction of peace. On the contrary, such support only leads to further Zionist intransigence and to its continuing to undermine peace opportunities and to hinder efforts aimed at establishing peace. Indeed it will only lead to continuing aggression, threats to, and provocation of the Arab nation, as well as to continued violation of international charters and defiance to the world community's will.

When U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz declares in Belgrade that the United States will not recognize the PLO even if it announces its acceptances of Resolutions 242 and 338 because this in itself, as he put it, is not enough to hold contacts with the PLO, he raises many question marks about the U.S. views of the principles of a just peace in the area.

Continuing to give assistance to the Zionist entity even at the U.S. taxpayer's expense is an American concern, but combining such material support with pressures to establish the kind of peace that only pleases Israel is another matter.

Rejecting dialogue with the PLO and refusing to recognize it is inconsistent with the principle of even-handedness which should be the basis of every impartial effort to deal with the crisis of the area of which the Palestinian problem is the crux. If the United States is combating terror and regards as terror the legitimate Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation forces and in order to restore legitimate Palestinian rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination, then how does it regard the systematic terror which Israel is committing against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory and its attacks and threats to Palestinians wherever they may be?

What has happened to the prominent U.S. role in defending human rights and its duty to defend the Palestinian Arab against the ugliest human rights violation being committed against him in the occupied territory?

Support and total bias for Israel did not and will not serve peace in the region.

French Role in Possible USSR Jews Exodus Viewed

LD252150 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The Franco-Arab Solidarity Society has criticized the likelihood of an international airlift being organized to transport Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine via France.

There have been contradictory reports about the intention of the Soviet Union to authorize mass emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and the preparedness of European states to be a bridgehead in the exodus. Growing talk about this issue coincides with a report that France has shown readiness to receive Jewish emigrants on their way to occupied Palestine, and that France's preparedness has been conveyed to the enemy prime minister during his recent visit to Paris. This has aroused indignation in the Arab world, given the good relations existing between the Arabs and France, which should be maintained for the good of both sides.

France playing a role in such an operation would compromise the future of France's role in the domain of the search for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. France seems to be eager to avoid this, in its capacity as a country whose weight prevents it from taking part in such an act. This concerns the conditions of any transferring of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union, but as regards the exodus itself, and whether the Soviets have agreed to it being carried out, Moscow has so far been denying any acquiescence to a mass emigration of Soviet Jews. But this denial does not mean complete rejection by the Soviet Union of the principle of such an operation, which remains a possibility — all the more since the Soviets are linking the operation to their ability to exploit it in the domain of their trade relations with the United States, which have experienced successive developments since the summit meeting between the American and Soviet leaders 5 weeks ago in Geneva.

On the other hand, American interest in an exodus of Soviet Jews has become a common denominator in American officials's conversations on the future of their country's relations with the Soviet Union. They have always insisted and continue to insist that the Soviet Union should reexamine its position on human rights. It is known that by such an expression, the Americans mean the lifting of the Soviet ban on a mass exodus of Jews to occupied Palestine. For its part, Israel links this subject to the process of its agreeing to a Soviet participation in an international conference to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict.

From this fact, it seems difficult to know the exact situation given the attempts by the parties involved in it to maintain it as somehow secret. But this does not prevent such an exodus from taking place suddenly, perhaps once the furor surrounding this issue has died down.

UAE

PRC Foreign Minister Departs for Bangladesh

GF240700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Dec (WAKH) — Prc Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and the accompanying delegation left Abu Dhabi today for Dhaka after concluding a 2-day visit to the UAE. During the visit, the PRC minister conferred with a number of UAE officials. He also held talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, dealing with a number of Arab and international issues and the means to bolster cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

'Abdallah To Make 2-Day Visit to Iran 29 Dec
GF251218 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave for Tehran this Saturday leading a UAE delegation on an official 2-day visit to Iran. During the visit, Rashid 'Abdallah will hold talks with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs, on developments in the region and relations between the two countries.

Sudanese Official, Delegation Arrive 24 Dec
GF241823 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Al-shariqah, 24 Dec (WAM) — Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadul, deputy chairman of the Transitional Military Council in Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in the country this afternoon on an official visit which will last several days. He was received at al-Shariqah International Airport by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, general commander of the amiri guards in al-Shariqah, and a number of senior officers of the amiri guards. Lt Gen Taj al-Din 'Abdalah stated that during his visit he will hold talks with His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of al-Shariqah, and other senior officials on the fraternal bilateral relations. He said that he will attend the festivals of the inauguration of the camp of the amiri guards and the training institute in Al-Shariqah Amirate to take place tomorrow.

Zanzibar Minister Arrives From Oman 25 Dec
GF251429 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1230 GMT

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAM) — Seiff Sharif Hamad, prime minister [title as received] of Zanzibar in the Tanzanian Republic, arrived in the UAE from Oman today for a 3-day visit during which he will hold talks with a number of UAE officials. The Tanzanian official is leading a high level 14-member delegation which includes Minister of Finance Taimur Salih, Minister of Education Omar Mapuri, and a number of government parliament members.

Meets Foreign Minister
GF251759 Manama WAKH in English 1554 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Dec (WAKH) — UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah today received Sieff Sharif Hamad, chief minister of Zanzibar who arrived here earlier today for a three-day visit to the UAE.

The Zanzibari official apprised 'Abdallah on the investment opportunity in this country and welcomed foreign investment in the country's development plans. He pointed out that foreign investment was protected by several laws in Zanzibar which is one of the main Tanzanian provinces.

A UAE Foreign Ministry official said that 'Abdallah told the Zanzibari official that UAE welcomed promotion of commercial and economic cooperation with Tanzania within its keeness to promote Afro-Arab cooperation.

YAR

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nepal
GF251755 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The YAR and the Kingdom of Nepal have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. This came in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today.

The statement said that out of the eagerness to establish constructive cooperation and strengthen the existing ties of friendship as part of the UN Charter, the Governments of the YAR and Nepal decided today, 25 December, to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. Non-resident ambassadors would be appointed later through diplomatic channels.

President Phones 'Arafat, Inquires About Health
GF260750 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, made a telephone call late last night to his brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Comittee, in order to inquire about his health. During the conversation, the brother leader president wished recuperation and good health for his Brother Yasir 'Arafat. Brother Yasir 'Arafat expressed thanks and appreciation for this intimate, humane, and fraternal gesture from the brother leader president.

PDRY Chairman Arrives in Sanaa 24 December
GF241240 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon. He is accompanied by a number of brother officials in the southern part of the homeland. Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and senior state and government officials received him on his arrival.

Mubarak Sends Message on Burkina-Mali Dispute

NC261301 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] President Husni Mubarak sent a message today to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, the current chairman of the OAU. The message involves the coordination of diplomatic efforts between Egypt and Senegal to calm the situation in the border area between the Republic of Mali and Burkina Faso. President Mubarak also sent a message to Liberian President General Samuel Doe. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, handed the two messages to the ambassadors of Senegal and Liberia in Cairo. In a statement following his meeting with the ambassadors, Dr Ghali said that Egypt wants to strengthen stability, security, and peace throughout Africa, while also seeking to resolve African disputes by peaceful means and through negotiations, free of any foreign intervention in the continent's affairs.

French President Arrives on Private Visit

NC242147 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand has arrived in Cairo on a private visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. President Mubarak is scheduled to meet with President Mitterrand at the end of his visit.

Meeting With Mubarak Possible

NC241250 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, Dec 24 (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand began a private Christmas visit to Egypt today, after arriving last night at the invitation of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Details were being kept secret at French request and it was not known if the visit, of unknown duration, had any political implications.

In Paris, the Elysee Presidential Palace refused comment, particularly on whether Mr. Mitterrand would be concerned with Middle East issues like the five French hostages held in Lebanon, or the mooted emigration of Soviet Jews.

Mr. Mitterrand has met Mr. Mubarak — with whom his official relations are said by both countries to be "excellent" — 11 times since the Egyptian leader came to power in October 1981.

Egyptian officials said Mr. Mitterrand could have a private dinner with Mr. Mubarak, and also visit upper Egypt as a tourist.

A French National Assembly delegation will pay an official visit to Egypt from December 26 to January 2.

Mr. Mitterrand's wife Danielle was today also in the Middle East, taking part in a vaccination campaign in Djibouti. She will fly to the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion on Christmas Day, accompanied by Georges Lemoine, the secretary of state for overseas territories and departments.

Prime Minister Meets With Ambassador to USSR

NC241506 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi received Salah Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to the USSR, today. According to the prime minister, the two men reviewed the development of economic and political relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union and discussed trade exchange. Dr Lutfi also said that at its session tomorrow, 25 December, the economic group will discuss the issue of exchange rates between Egypt and the Soviet Union in the commerical field with a view to increasing bilateral trade.

Mubarak, King Husayn Converse on Phone

NC242033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2023 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation this evening. The two leaders exchanged views on current developments in a number of regional issues.

Sudan's Siwar al-Dhahab Telephones Mubarak

NC242038 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 24 Dec 85c

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA] — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council in the Republic of Sudan, telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at noon today. The two men exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest to their two fraternal countries.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Arrives

NC241215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived in Cairo from Baghdad today on a visit of several days to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Iraqi official will hold talks on ways of bolstering bilateral relations and on issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Meets Assistant Minister

NC242016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, assistant foreign minister, this evening met with Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, who is currently visiting Cairo. The two discussed Arab issues and the latest developments in the Gulf war. Al-Wayyis stated that his visit to Egypt is part of the exchanges between officials of the two countries for consultation on Arab and international issues as well as on other subjects of interest to the two peoples. He added that he will meet tomorrow with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy

prime minister and foreign minister, and will convey to him a verbal message from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Ambassador Badawi stressed that Egypt will continue to support Iraq in its peaceful efforts to put an end to the Gulf war. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary arrived in Cairo early this morning on a 2-day visit.

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC251453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today met with Nuri 'Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. During the meeting, the two men made a comprehensive review of Arab developments, particularly of recent developments in the Gulf war. The Iraqi official briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the various aspects of this war and brought him up to date.

Mr Nuri 'Isma'il said that he had conveyed a verbal message to Dr 'Abd al-Majid from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. Dr 'Abd al-Majid in turn stated that Mr Tariq 'Aziz' message dealt with developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the Iraqi stance. He added that the message is part of the consultations between the two foreign ministers, in preparation for their forthcoming meeting in Fes, Morocco, during the Islamic conference slated for 6 January 1986.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he and Nuri 'Isma'il discussed bilateral issues of interests. Touching on Egypt's stand on the Iraq-Iran war, Dr 'Abd al-Majid declared that Egypt's stand is well known, and added that Egypt is engaged in various efforts to end this war. He added: We appreciate the Iraqi stand. We hope all moves to end the war will be successful.

Departs Cairo

NC260947 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nuri Isma'il Al-Wayyis left Cairo for home this morning following a visit during which he conveyed an oral message from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The message dealt with the current situation on the Iraqi-Iranian war front. The Iraqi official arrived in Cairo on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry, PLO Officials Discuss Summit

NC251554 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry, has met with PLO representative in Cairo Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim. Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim reported that Palestinian political developments were discussed during the meeting, along with the outcome of the recent meetings of the Palestinian command and the overall political action to find a solution to the Middle East problem. Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim said that in its meeting in Tunis yesterday to discuss all aspects of the Arab situation and the Middle East peace proposals, the PLO Executive Committee had decided to call for an immediate Arab summit in order to take a pan-Arab position to which all Arab parties would be committed. This position on the peace process would be determined by the parties on the basis of the summit conference.

Rioting Al-Zaqaziq University Students Arrested

NC242005 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Al-Zaqaziq, 24 Dec (MENA) — Classes resumed today at Al-Zaqaziq University despite attempts by certain university students to gather on the campus for a demonstration. Classes also continued despite efforts made by a limited number of students from institutes and secondary schools to gather in some of the Al-Zaqaziq city neighborhoods. According to responsible sources at the Ministry of Interior, security men managed to disperse these people without any casualties. A dialogue also took place between demonstrators and university officials, who attempted to convince the protesters to disperse.

It should be recalled that a number of Al-Zaqaziq University students gathered at the campus last Saturday morning to protest against a decision to refer a student from the education department to a disciplinary council for insulting one of the department's female employees. Certain elements utilized this student gathering, turning it from a private issue into a demonstration calling for the abrogation of the university's regulations and the dismissal of campus guards. The protesters shouted slogans which echoed partisan stands toward certain public issues. These same sources also noted that some elements tried to instigate students to gather and demonstrate outside the campus last Sunday. They carried banners expressing these same stands. The demonstrators marched toward the governorate building where they threw stones. They also damaged some police cars. Police personnel tried several times to convince them to disperse. However, they continued their acts of aggression against the police, and 22 soldiers were slightly wounded as a result.

According to these sources, the police managed to contain the situation and to disperse the demonstrators. A student at the arts department broke his left leg when he fell down as the crowd was being dispersed. No other casualties were reported among the students. According to the Ministry of Interior sources, 11 students who had participated in the demonstration and caused damage were arrested. The state security prosecution then began investigations into the incident and ordered the arrest of nine other students who had led the riots. The prosecution said that these students had leaflets ready for distribution calling for the riot. The state security prosecution decided to hold all those arrested in custody without bail.

Acquittal of Policeman Demanded

NC251208 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Al-Zaqaziq, Dec 25 (AFP) — Twenty-two policemen have been injured in four days of rioting at Al-Zaqaziq University,

north of Cairo, by students demanding the acquittal of an Egyptian policeman on trial for killing seven Israeli tourists.

One student has also been injured and 30 people arrested in the demonstrations, which began on Saturday and were still continuing yesterday.

Several hundred students, joined by schoolchildren and college pupils, chanted slogans calling for the acquittal of Sulayman Khatir, who has pleaded not guilty at a military tribunal in Suez, south of here.

They were prevented from leaving the university campus by anti-riot police armed with shiedls and batons, who had taken up positions surrounding them.

Khatir, 25, is a third year law student who was doing military service in the police when he opened fire on a group of Israeli tourists in the Sinai.

The trial is expected to end on Saturday, but meanwhile the Council of State will meet tomorrow to study a request by the defence to have the case tried by a civilian, not military, court.

During questioning, and in several interviews published in the opposition press, Khatir claimed that he was "only doing my duty" when he fired into the air and warned the tourists to withdraw.

He said that he was unaware that they were Israelis. He also denied belonging to a fundamentalist Muslim group, and said that he had not been "shocked" when he saw two Israeli women, one in a bikini and the other topless.

The Israeli Government asked permission to send its own investigators to take part in the enquiry, and also [requested] a complete file on all the details of the incident.

The leftist opposition insists on looking on Khatir as a "national hero", and has formally given his name to an anti-Zionist combat committee.

Several thousand well-known figures — writers, politicians and artists — have signed petitions calling for his release, and a fund has been started for his family.

Lufti Creates Joint Business, Government Group

NC241647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi issued a decision today which calls for the formation of a joint committee composed of Egyptian businessmen and members of the government. This committee will be chaired by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation. According to the decision, the committee will hold monthly meetings in order to exchange views on economic policies, as well as to discuss the factors that influence increases in production and export, the rationalization of imports, the need to overcome investment obstacles, and ways to ensure that both the private and investment sectors will be able to participate with the government and public sectors in development plans. The decision also stipulates that the joint committee will present its recommendations to the prime minister so that they may be taken into account in the long-range economic policy.

The joint committee will consist of Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; the ministers of finance, supply, industry, and economy; the heads of industrial unions, banks, chambers of commerce, and Egyptian business associations; and the presidents and owners of a number of private and investment companies. The decision also requires that Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of Cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, be appointed secretary of the committee.

Iraq To Destroy Iran Economy With 'Surprise' Weapon

NC241359 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 24 (AFP) — Iraqi Air Force Commander General Hamid Sha'ban today said Iraq planned to destroy every economic target in Iran with a new weapon which would "surprise" the entire world. "Iran will become a country without any resources," he told the magazine *AL-QADISIYAH*.

Gen. Sha'ban said the Iraqi general staff had perfected a strategy to "demolish all that remains of economic targets in Iran (with) a new type of weapon which will surprise not only the Iranian Army, but the entire world".

His announcement came amid reports in the Kuwaiti press after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow last week that the Soviet Union had agreed to supply Baghdad with "highly perfected" defensive arms.

Gen. Sha'ban also said that heavy concentrations of Iranian troops on the southern front had been "destroyed" by recent Iraqi air raids. All Iranian attacks in this region were "doomed to fail", he added.

Baghdad has been announcing daily for almost a month that its warplanes are bombing the area from where, according to reports from Tehran, a new Iranian offensive may soon be launched. Gen. Sha'ban also said Iraqi air attacks will continue on Iran's Khark Island oil terminal, which handles nearly 90 percent of the country's oil exports.

IV, VI Army Corps Prepared for Military Operations

JN252023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA) — Some 85,000 Iraqis have carried out the task of preparing the military operations theater in the IV and VI Army Corps sectors in southern Iraq. In a letter to the president, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said that the big campaign, which he supervised and which began on 23 November, has ended by transforming the reeds of the marshes into a carpet for the Iraqi Armed Forces.

The RCC vice chairman described this operation, which extended along the borders with Iran in some southern areas, as a colossal achievement, a national campaign, and a translation of the Iraqi people's will. He said that the masses that rushed to carry out the operation from the Governorates of Karbala', Al-Najaf, Babil, Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Wasit, Maysan, and Al-Basrah amid the roaring of explosions and the wheezing of bullets have performed a great job because they were cutting reeds in the marshes, building dams, and erecting ramparts only 250 meters from the enemy. He noted that the speed with which the operation was carried out demonstrated the Iraqi people's adherence to their principles and their pure allegiance to the homeland.

The RCC vice chairman said that 2,851 shells fell during the operation, but the workers did not stop; rather, they vehemently stepped up their work. He said that with such a great achievement in the marshes and villages there, we have been able to erect an insurmountable mountain of fire between us and the evil by which we will protect the Arab nation, values, and divine message. He said that Iraq will always outrun time and bury all the plots against it.

Baghdad Municipality Builds 'Ramparts' at Front

JN241655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1536 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said the Iraqis do not know the impossible in their daring struggle to defend the nation's honor and the values of noble conduct and dignified life. This came in reply to a cable by Baghdad Mayor 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Latif in which he informed the president that the Baghdad municipality machinery and personnel completed building ramparts [sidad] for defensive positions and roads leading to them in the military operation sectors in record time. The president added that those who carried out this task have performed a duty others consider impossible, but which is within the Iraqi people's ability because they derive their power from their belief in the great principles of building glorious Iraq.

The president pointed out that faith in God has made our people bold and courageous because they are in the right. Darkness has always been defeated by the will of the Iraqis and the sun has continued to light the playgrounds of the Iraqi children, increasing their faith in both the present and the future, the president said, adding that the Iraqis and the Arabs will always be proud of these achievements because this phase in Iraqi history has witnessed the defense of Arab history and proved to those who doubt our greatness that Arab history and achievements are established facts, not mere allegations.

The Baghdad mayor informed the president that the municipality personnel and machinery yesterday completed all the required ramparts for the defensive positions and roads leading to them for the IV, VI, III, and VII Army Corps, with the exception of a limited gap in the Majnun oil field, to be completed next Monday.

Communique on 25 Dec Maritime Target Attack

JN251720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Communique No 2,063 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, which derive their ability from Almighty God, from the wisdom of our great leader, and from unlimited popular support, will always defend the cause of peace and freedom. They will always be able to crush evil and the evildoers.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In order to further tear up the Iranian regime and in implementation of our great people's will to wipe out its resources, our heroic Air Force planes launched an accurate, effective strike against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1800 [1500 GMT] today. After carrying out their mission with their

well-known efficiency and courage, our eagles returned safely to the homeland in God's care.

2. Our valiant artillery men at the front directed their shells at enemy positions, inflicting the following confirmed losses:

a. Three were killed and one gun was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

b. One heavy machinegun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

3. The forces of the Iranian ruling tyrants shelled the Mandali suburbs with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1985

24 Dec Khark, Sea Target Attacks

JN241730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Communique No 2,062 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With all Iraq's dignity and glory, our brave Armed Forces stand like a big mountain in the face of the criminal enemies, affirming their great ability and preparedness to crush their remnants and destroy their resources in all battle areas.

The following is a roundup of operations for last night and today:

1. The just Iraqi people's decision to crush the pillar of aggression is being courageously and effectively implemented by our valiant eagles of the air. Our heroic Air Force today carried out the following two missions:

a. At 1430 [1130 GMT] today, our valiant eagles launched a successful raid on Khark Island, pounding and setting ablaze the island's installations.

b. At 1450 [1150 GMT] today, the Iraqi eagles launched another raid against a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast. The target received an accurate, effective hit.

Having carried out their duties, the eagles returned to the homeland, safe and triumphant in God's care. Let the suspect Iranian rulers know that prolonging the war and insisting on the course of tyranny and aggression will only increase their defeats and destruction, will increase Iraqi victories and strengthen our vehement march on the road to freedom and dignity.

2. Our forward units in the II Army Corps central sector opened heavy fire on enemy gun emplacements and troop concentrations opposite our units, killing or wounding five and destroying one heavy machinegun.

3. One of our patrols in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris clashed with an enemy patrol. Our men destroyed one enemy boat and a raft, killing all their occupants. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed two enemy positions and burned an ammunition dump.

4. The criminal enemy shelled the Mandali suburbs with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1985

Spokesman Denies Iranian Claims of Air Raid

JN241816 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about a raid by Iranian planes in the northern Al-'Imarah area of southern Iraq. The spokesman told INA tonight that two Iranian planes failed to penetrate the Iraqi borders and fled without carrying out their mission because of Iraqi ground resistance fire.

SFRY Interior Minister Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN251304 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received Dobroslav Culafic, SFRY federal secretary for interior affairs, this morning. During the meeting they discussed the close relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them, as well as issues of common interest. Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, the president's secretary, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Signs Cooperation Minutes

JN241957 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister, and Dobroslav Culafic, SFRY federal secretary for interior affairs, concluded their talks here this evening. The talks resulted in the signing of cooperation minutes in which the two sides asserted the importance of exchanging experiences and visits to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the SFRY, as well as between the interior ministries of both countries.

Departs 25 Dec

JN251732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA) — Dobroslav Culafic, SFRY federal secretary for interior affairs, and his delegation left Baghdad today after a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the SFRY delegation held talks with Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member and interior minister, on bolstering cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Further Coverage of PRC Minister Qian's Visit

Meets With Ramadan

JN241700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received PRC Minister of Communications Qian Yongchang, head of the Chinese side on the Iraqi-Chinese joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. They discussed cooperation in the economic, trade, and technical fields and prospects for their promotion in the service of the joint interests of the two friendly peoples. The meeting was attended by Housing and Construction Minister Muhammad Fadl Husayn and the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad.

Industry, Transport Ministers

JN241143 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — Subhi Yasin, Iraqi minister of industry and minerals, met here today with Qian Yongchang, PRC minister of communications and head of the Chinese side to the Iraqi-Chinese committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. During the meeting, attended by the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in the industrial and technical spheres and the opportunities for expanding it.

The Chinese minister then met with 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, and discussed with him cooperation between the two friendly countries and the scopes of promoting it in the field of transport and communications in the joint interest of the two friendly peoples.

Departs After Signing Minutes

JN261004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA) — PRC Communications Minister Qian Yongchang and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. The PRC minister headed his country's delegation to the Iraqi-PRC joint committee on economic, trade, and technical cooperation, while Housing and Reconstruction Minister Muhammad Fadl Husayn headed the Iraqi side.

At the end of the meetings, joint minutes were signed on bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, scientific, and technical spheres for 1986.

'Aziz Meets Bulgarian Foreign Ministry Official

JN241938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1827 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Ivan Ganev, Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign affairs. They discussed bilateral relations, the regional situation, and international issues of joint interest.

U.S. Reportedly Offers $8 Billion for Direct Talks

GF251855 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Dec 85 p 22

["Exclusive" report from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Minister of Information Muhammad al-Khatib has disclosed that the United States has offered Jordan $8 billion to enter direct negotiations with Israel — $3 billion to be paid in cash, the remaining $5 billion to be paid over 5 years at $1 billion per year. The United States also offered to freely provide the Jordanian Army with arms to make it superior to any neighboring Arab country. The information minister stated that the United States offered this to Jordan on the condition that Jordan enters direct negotiations with the Zionist entity. Al-Khatib noted that Jordan refuses to enter any unilateral negotiations not based on an international conference to be attended by all parties in the conflict and the five permanent Security Council members. He affirmed that Jordan is committed to its declared political stand to settle the Palestinian issue.

The Jordanian information minister stated that Jordan also rejects representing the Palestinians in any future negotiations.

This came during a symposium organized by the Press and Information Department at Yarmuk University under the title "Bases and Trends of Jordanian Information." At the outset of the symposium, Al-Khatib reviewed the trends of Jordanian media in the current state, which are based on support for Arab issues.

U.S. Representative Solarz Ends Visit, Departs

JN250700 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Dec p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz left Amman Tuesday for the West Bank and Israel, ending a two-day visit during which he met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of senior Jordanian officials. Mr. Solarz also met a group of Palestinian scholars and journalists and discussed with them the latest developments in the Middle East and issues related to the Palestinian question.

Mr. Solarz is a ranking member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and is considered one of the most influential figures in shaping Congressional policy on the Middle East. He is also a staunch supporter of Israel.

Senate Approves 1986 State Budget Bill

JN261252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Amman —In this morning's session under Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the ministers, the Senate unanimously approved the 1986 State General Budget Bill as referred by the House of Representatives.

'Positive Elements' Seen in Cheysson's Visit

JN240727 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Dec 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Visit"]

[Text] A number of positive elements have emerged from talks in Jordan over the past several days between Jordanian leaders and Mr. Claude Cheysson, member of the Executive Commission of European Community (EC) in charge of north-south relations.

At a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn on Saturday, Mr. Cheysson voiced the EC's support for Jordan's political efforts and backed its Feb. 11 accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for achieving peace in the Middle East. Mr. Cheysson informed Minister of Planning 'Abdallah al-Nusur and told a press conference just before his departure that the EC will look into ways of balancing its trade with Jordan, which is heavily in favour of Europe at the present, and in the coming year the Community will study means of increasing its assistance to Jordanian development projects. He also said the EC was deeply impressed by the way Jordan has been handling loans and grants in implementing projects for developing its manpower, agriculture, industry and energy.

Mr. Cheysson would not have voiced the EC's support for Jordanian efforts had not these efforts been genuinely directed towards development on the domestic front and oriented towards lasting and honorable peace on the external level. In its Venice Declaration of 1980 the EC called for a negotiated settlement to the Palestine problem and stressed that the PLO should be involved in any effort for peace in the Middle East. Mr. Cheysson reiterated this position in a lecture he delivered at the World Affairs Council on Saturday and we were happy to hear him stress the fact that there can be no peace in the region if the Palestinians are not granted their inalienable rights in their own homeland.

In their meetings with Cheysson, Jordanian officials have undoubtedly reemphasised the need for the EC to play a more meaningful role to resolve the Middle East conflict. Also, though contrary to expectations Mr. Cheysson did not reveal an EC contribution towards the on-going peace endeavours, he nevertheless made it clear that Europe was open to new ideas and suggestions that can help the EC launch new efforts for peace in the area. This statement, coming from a leading EC official and an experienced politician like Mr. Cheysson, points to the fact that the Europeans would like to hear clear Arab views on how best Europe can play its role in formulating and propagating initiatives and formulas to solve the Palestinian problem.

In all, Mr. Cheysson's visit here was a welcome step which should keep the channels of communications open between the Europeans and Arabs for the sake of continued friendship among them in the service of peace and stability, not only in this region but also for the whole world.

Waite Claims 'Progress' in Negotiations
NC241532 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Beirut, Dec 24 (AFP) — Special Anglican envoy Terry Waite today said he had submitted "fair and just" proposals to Moslem extremists holding four Americans hostage in Lebanon, and expressed optimism that negotiations would lead to their release.

Mr. Waite told a news conference at the close of his third visit here that he had "made progress" during new meetings with the Islamic Jihad group, which says it is holding the four U.S. citizens.

"I have put to the captors what I consider to be fair and just proposals," he said. "It is clear to me that further steps are required. During the coming days, I expect to have further contacts with other parties who are involved in this matter.

"The negotiations are at a critical stage," he added, "and as I have frequently said, they are difficult, dangerous, and require continued and sustained efforts."

Mr. Waite said he would now confer with Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury, who dispatched him on his mission.

Mr. Waite refused to say whether he had met the four hostages — journalist Terry Anderson, Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco and American University in Beirut officials David Jacobsen and Thomas Sutherland.

But he told reporters he had received assurances that they were in good health, and said he passed on Christmas greetings from their families.

The Church of England emissary also said he asked the kidnappers to allow him to meet the families of 17 prisoners in Kuwaiti jails whose release the Islamic Jihad is demanding as a condition for freeing the Americans. The detainees have been convicted of involvement in bomb attacks in Kuwait two years ago.

"So far, this request has not been granted, but I hope it will be on a future occasion," he said. "It is a real difficulty. I have been able to put to the captors proposals which I believe will lead us through that problem without compromising fundamental principles."

News reports from the United Arab Emirates indicated that Mr. Waite met with a senior Kuwaiti official during a visit to Geneva last week, apparently to discuss the kidnappers' demands.

Mr. Waite told reporters he also met the British ambassador here to discuss the case of kidnapped British journalist Alec Collett, but would not say whether he established contact with his abductors — a group calling itself the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems.

"My first attention is still with the case of the four Americans, although Mr. Collett and all other hostages are not forgotten," he said. "I firmly believe that a solution can and will be found."

Mr. Collett, in a video recording, last week appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to exchange him for a number of "Arab Moslems" held in British jails.

A total of 11 Western nationals are missing in Lebanon, including six Americans, four Frenchmen and Mr. Collett.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth said it "executed" one of four Lebanese Jews it took hostage last month.

The organization, in a statement published by the *AL-NAHAR* newspaper, said it "carried out the death sentence on Israeli spy Kohen Halaq" in retaliation for the Israeli bombing of villages in southern Lebanon earlier this month.

It threatened to kill the remaining hostages if Israel resumed its raids and demanded "that the truth be told" about 300 prisoners held by the Israeli-backed south Lebanon army in Israel's so-called "security zone" that reaches five kilometers (three miles) into Lebanon.

Lebanese police said Mr. Kohen's body had not been recovered.

The Supreme Council of Lebanon's 200-member Jewish community has said seven of its members have so far disappeared.

'Developments Likely'
AU242121 Paris AFP in English 2111 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] London, Dec 24 (AFP) — Special Anglican envoy Terry Waite today said on his return from Beirut that new developments were likely "in the next few days" on the fate of four Americans held hostage in Lebanon and called on their families not to lose hope.

At an airport press conference, he said: "At the moment I am watching very keenly developments which might take place in the next few days... We are at a point where we could move forward creatively quite quickly, or as is often the case in the Lebanon, we could run into major difficulties."

In a message to families of the four U.S. captives, he added: "Never give up hope, keep courageous."

"I genuinely think there are people in Lebanon who want this matter cleared up," he said.

Earlier in Beirut, he said he had submitted "fair and just" proposals to Moslem militants holding four Americans hostage and expressed optimism that negotiations would lead to their release.

He told a news conference in Beirut at the close of his third visit there that he had "made progress" during new meetings with the Islamic Jihad group, which says it is holding the four U.S. citizens.

He refused to say whether he had met the four hostages — journalist Terry Anderson, Roman catholic priest lawrence Jenco and American University in Beirut officials David Jacobsen and Thomas Sutherland.

But he told reporters he had received assurances that they were in good health, and said he passed on Christmas greetings from their families.

Conditions for Release of Frenchmen Detailed

NC250807 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Report from unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] The Christmas celebrations here have not overshadowed the news of those Frenchmen who cannot share in the festivities, particularly the four who are being held in Lebanon. It would not be an exaggeration to state that the ebb in political news as a result of the current festivities has permitted even more coverage of the affair involving Kauffmann and his fellows.

Dr Rida Ra'd's visit to Lebanon has made the following points clear:

1. The kidnappers are from the Hizballah group.

2. The only country that can ensure that the talks are seriously pursued is Iran.

3. The French Government has been notified of the conditions for the hostages' release. Foremost among them are that Iran be supplied with arms; that the prisoners held in connection with the attempted assassination of Shahpur Bakhtiar be released; and that these prisoners be exchanged for the hostages at Beirut Airport.

4. The Amal Movement's promises do not hold water. The Amal Movement is in no position to keep its word or to influence the kidnappers. The evidence is that the Hizballah people have stressed that the deal will involve all four Frenchmen, a position that contradicts earlier statements by Nabih Birri.

5. Only the president of France can resolve the issue, since no other political power has the authority to enfore the necessary extraordinary measures.

6. The deal in question would also involve Iranian-French relations. The normalization of these relations would pave the way for the hostages' release.

Tripartite Agreement Expected by End of Year

NC250811 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Members of the Tripartite Committee comprising representatives of the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party and the Lebanese Forces are scheduled to leave for Damascus today to hold a meeting in the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. It is expected that the final touches will be put to the draft tripartite agreement at this meeting, so that it can be signed before the end of the year, according to informed sources.

Committee Returns From Meeting

NC251833 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The members of the Tripartite Committee, which represents the Amal Movement, the Socialist Progressive Party [PSP], and the Lebanese Forces and is made up of Muhammad Baydun, Marwan Hamadah, Akram Shuhayyib, Michel Samahah, and As'ad al-Shaftari, returned to Beirut this evening. The members of the committee had met in the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this afternoon in order to prepare the final version of the tripartite agreement for signature, following recent contacts which settled differences, foremost among which is the transitional period for abolishing political sectarianism. Damascus reports indicate that the atmosphere at the meeting was highly positive. It is expected that the agreement will be signed in the next few days.

Sham'un Remarks

NC241255 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] In a statement after his meeting with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, former president Camille Sham'un said that as regards the tripartite agreement he has full confidence in the Lebanese Forces and their leaders. He added, however, that since the Lausanne meetings, he has been objecting to the abolition of political sectarianism for reasons he had often repeated. He said: Should political sectarianism be abolished, this step should be accompanied by the emergence of what they call secularism. In other words, a new law should be enacted with regard to civil status that would, among other things, prohibit polygamy and treat all Lebanese sects equally. Sham'un added that those who persistently call for an end to political sectarianism are not themselves interested in merging all the Lebanese in a spirit of national unity. This has been exemplified by the long sectarian war. He said that these people are seeking to control the majority, and nothing else.

Hubayqah Comments

NC241638 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] In his meeting with a French delegation currently visiting Lebanon, Elie Hubayqah, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee stated: During the holidays, the Lebanese Christians find that they need outside support after facing 11 years of war. We need to feel that there is world support, particularly support from people with whom we maintain cultural relations. Hubayqah said: We are facing real military and economic dangers.

Referring to the tripartite agreement, he explained that there is agreement, and that the coming few days will show whether there is a solution. He added: Our goal is peace, and we will continue the negotiations even if the three parties fail to sign the agreement in the next 48 hours. The most significant issue is the elimination of sectarianism. We will not sign under pressure. He explained that the elimination of sectarianism must pass through a transitional period — from the concepts of Muslim and Christian to the concept of citizen. He pointed out that there are direct contacts with Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] but Amal and the PSP cannot make a decision because they are governed by certain directives. Hubayqah said: After 11 years of war and after all ideologies have been set aside, we turn to Syria and Islam in order to put an end to the economic and social collapse. He noted that 1986 will be burdensome for the Lebanese, particularly for the Christians.

Asked whether there is any link with Israel, Hubayqah said: Lebanon has two neighbors, Israel and Syria. Syria is present in three quarters of Lebanon and Israel is present in the fourth. Speaking in national and Christian terms, I reject greater Israel and greater Syria. He added: Since 12 March we have tried to separate the issue of the south and the issue of Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces no longer have any representation in the south. The south now constitutes an international issue. Jazzin is the last testing ground for coexistence among the Lebanese. He affirmed that there are no more links between Israel and the Lebanese Forces or between Lahd and the Lebanese Forces. He regards the south as a microcosm of the situation in the Middle East.

Ba'th Leader Remarks

NC241102 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 23-29 Dec 85 pp 18-20

[Interview with 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, by correspondent Nadim Abu Ghannam "last week," conducted in Arabic — place not given]

[Text][Abu Ghannam] How do you evaluate the new West Beirut security plan?

[Qansuh] The principal aim of this plan is to reconcile the two allies, Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], and thus protect the national regions against transgressions that weaken the nationalist current.

We believe security in West Beirut to be closely linked to that in other Lebanese regions, since we understand security as one indivisible entity. Security in West or East Beirut will remain frail as long as these are considered separate regions. But global security in turn cannot be achieved as long as global political accord is absent.

Until now, we can say that the West Beirut security plan has met with a relative degree of success, and we hope it will eventually lead to greater cohesion and unity of ranks among the national forces in order to facilitate the closure of the Lebanese "dossier" in the manner sponsored by Syria.

[Abu Ghannam] It is said that a Syrian official has threatened Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri with granting the responsibility of West Beirut security to parties other than the PSP and Amal unless a definitive end is put to street battles. What is the truth of this report?

[Qansuh] I have no knowledge of such a threat, and do not believe the Syrian leadership ever threatens its allies. Syria has, however, expressed its deep dissatisfaction with the battles that erupted between two allies in West Beirut, and has impressed upon the leaders of the two parties the urgent necessity to stop them because they counter the Syrian role and profit Israel by delaying the closure of the Lebanese dossier.

[Abu Ghannam] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah, known to be an ally of Syria, has said the tripartite accord was stillborn. Do you agree with him?

[Qansuh] I believe Franjiyah, whom we hold in great respect, must have had particular circumstances that prompted him to say the tripartite accord was stillborn. However, I can assure you, from the information available to me, that the accord will be signed and that the contacts and meetings that took place in Damascus have successfully ended all disputes and disagreements on this accord.

[Abu Ghannam] Minister Walid Junblatt said he will only accept the superficial changes suggested by the Lebanese Forces, but not those touching the essence of the accord. What is your comment?

[Qansuh] I think the contents of the tripartite accord are clear. It is natural to request some changes in the text of any accord, however, what concerns us is that suggested amendments do not touch the essence but deal with details of the accord. The factions may disagree, for example, on the return of the displaced to their homes, but they all agree on the necessity of their return.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you expect Israel to try and thwart the accord? If so, how?

[Qansuh] Israel will naturally try and thwart the accord. Indeed, we believe the provocation of what has been called the "missile crisis" in the Al-Biqa' Valley is part of such an attempt, since any activation of the military situation by Israel now aims at reshuffling the cards and creating new "givens." But I'll go further and say that Israel genuinely seeks to thwart the accord because it was sponsored and backed by Syria and because it would effectively close the Lebanese dossier. Israel does not want Syria to succeed in its political and security mission in Lebanon, nor does it want to see the Lebanese dossier closed.

Israel can try to thwart the accord by various means. It can sow discord among the forces — and we all know the latest AMAL-PSP battles were the result of such Israeli interference — or it can escalate the Jazzin front by telling the south Lebanon army to provoke battles around Sidon as a prelude for direct Israeli interference.

[Abu Ghannam] When do you expect the tripartite accord to be signed?

[Qansuh] Before the end of this year, unless new developments occur to postpone it till 1986. But I can confirm that it will be signed, sooner or later.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you expect any battles in the Beirut or Sidon Palestinian camps?

[Qansuh] The decision to start a war in the camps belongs to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian forces loyal to him, and 'Arafat undoubtedly uses it as a means of pressure on the local, regional and international scene. Hence the responsibility of the (Syrian-backed) Palestine National Salvation Front is very important, since it is necessary to isolate 'Arafat and take this decision-making power away from him, so that the Palestinian cause stops being a product offered for sale.

[Abu Ghannam] How do you evaluate the decision to lift state subsidies on oil, and what do you think will be its economic results?

[Qansuh] The decision to lift state subsidies will naturally lead to higher prices for domestic and imported products at the same time. The prices of bread, electricity, transport, fruits and vegetables will all be affected. However, this is not only the result of Minister Camille Sham'un's decision, but also of the lack of price monitoring amid the prevalent chaos.

However, we cannot deny that the state has lifted a burden from its shoulders only to put it on those of the people who are already suffering from the economic crisis.

[Abu Ghannam] The U.S. recently announced it will reduce its material aid to the UNIFL. How will this decision affect the situation in south Lebanon?

[Qansuh] It has become obvious that there is no American policy in Lebanon and the region, but an Israeli policy carried out by the U.S.

Only recently, the U.S. raised the issue of security measures in the south with some of the highest Lebanese officials. There was talk of a UNIFIL deployment in all of south Lebanon, thereby providing for a total Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Then, all of a sudden, the U.S. announced it was reducing its material aid to the international force by one half, and we have reason to believe it will stop all aid at a later stage.

In other words, the U.S. seeks to cement the presence of the security belt in south Lebanon and give Israel a free hand there, and indeed, we are witnessing today a wave of displacement of the inhabitants of the borderline villages as part of the plan to empty the security belt of its inhabitants.

[Abu Ghannam] What would Syria's military response be in case the SLA [army of south Lebanon] launches an attack on eastern Sidon?

[Qansuh] The national Lebanese forces, represented by the Popular Liberation Army in Sidon, are prepared for any confrontation with the SLA. I certainly do not want to imply that these forces are not powerful enough; however, the fact remains that should Israel interfere directly, the balance of power will be reversed and it will be necessary for Syria to restore the equilibrium. Hence, the situation in Sidon may lead to a Syro-Israeli war. But are the circumstances favorable for such a war now? I think this is the major question.

[Abu Ghannam] Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Syria seeks a military confrontation and has installed new missiles near the Lebanese border for that...

[Qansuh] The increased Israeli threats and provocations are part of an American-Zionist plan which seeks to achieve the following points:

1. A reshuffling of the cards on the Lebanese and regional levels and the creation of new circumstances there;

2. Renewing the attack on the Arab liberation forces, headed by Syria, and on the Lebanese nationalist forces, in order to obstruct the national trend;

3. Confirming the Israeli policy against Syria, the Lebanese nationalist forces but also against the Arab people as a whole.

Renewing the American-Israeli attack on Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces but also against the Arab people as a whole.

Renewing the American-Israeli attack on Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces is nothing surprising, when we consider that Syria is giving the noble Lebanese national resistance full support in its confrontation to the Israeli occupation.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you think the present government should be replaced?

[Qansuh] The present government is only present in name, since its members are not meeting or fulfilling their responsibilities. The replacement or continuation of this government will not change anything as long as political accord is absent. However, it has been agreed that once the tripartite accord is signed, a new national and enlarged government will be created that groups all the principal leaderships and forces as a first step toward unity, reform, and the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Forces' Member Comments

NC241621 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpts] A visiting French delegation comprising 40 prominent media personalities, politicans, and intellectuals today met with Elie Hubayqah, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, and a number of committee members. The delegation was briefed on the Christian cause in Lebanon. This is part of efforts to explain the Lebanese issue to the French and to the Western public in general.

The meetings opened at 0900 today at the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces Command with a session between lawyer Karim

Paqraduni, head of the Information Department of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, and the French delegation. In response to questions from the delegation members, Paqraduni said that the Christians in Lebanon are a unifying factor geographically, and a force for coexistence demographically. The geographic spread of Christians in Lebanon guarantees the unity of Lebanese territory. Therefore, the displacement of the Christians is a divisive factor and the return of the Christians to their homes is a unifying factor.

Regarding the tripartite agreement, Paqraduni asserted: The special relations with Syria do not mean and should not mean unity, union, federation, or confederation. These relations should be seen as high-level coordination between two independent states through bilateral agreements approved by the legitimate authorities of the two countries and within the framework of mutual recognition of the economic, political, cultural, and educational differences between the two regimes. He added: The elimination of sectarianism does not mean and should not mean the Islamification of Lebanon and its transformation into an Islamic republic. We do not want our rejection of an Islamic state to affect Islam as a religion and the Muslims as individuals. We want the gradual elimination of sectarianism in order to lessen the sense of affiliation to a sect and strengthen the sense of affiliation to a homeland. We proposed one of two solutions: Either set a final date for the elimination of sectarianism after about 15 years or leave the determination of this date to a Lebanese parliament. Gradual elimination guarantees that we will not be embarking on an adventure and the Constitution guarantees that we won't be committing suicide.

Regarding relations between Israel and Lahd, Paqraduni said: We reject the greater Israel advocated by world Zionism. We also reject the greater Syria advocated by some parties. We are adherents of a great Lebanon. In the space of 9 months, the uprising disengaged itself from the action in the south because the south has become the gate for internationalization and a gate for Israeli interference in our domestic affairs. At the same time, we took the bold step of moving closer to Syria; relations between the Lebanese Forces and Syria are good.

Regarding the signing of the tripartite agreement, he noted: We are seriously seeking to reach agreement with Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party. We will continue the negotiations irrespective of the difficulties, because we regard reconciliation as the only way to a solution. There can be no reconciliation without negotiations. Therefore, we will have to negotiate in order to reach agreement. Concluding, Paqraduni called on the Phalangist Party and all prominent Christian figures to unite in a broad front to serve as the Christian decisionmaking body. He expected a Christian democratic front to be established in 1986 that would become an active member of the world Christian democratic movement.

'Violent' Clashes Erupt on Beirut Combat Lines

NC241330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] A security report that we just received indicates that violent clashes are now taking place on Beirut's combat lines, particularly on the al-'Azariyah-Ra's al-Nab'-Wadi Abu Jamil lines and along the Sodeco-commercial markets line. A number of 60-mm and 82-mm mortar shells have fallen on Wadi Abu Jamil. 106-mm artillery is also being used in the clashes.

Resistance Operations Reported in South

NC241419 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] At 0200 today the national resistance fighters fired four 107-mm rockets at a position manned by the occupation forces and their agens in the area of Yarin. The rockets hit their targets, and Israeli enemy helicopters were seen evacuating the resulting casualties. The enemy forces retaliated by shelling neighboring villages. The resistance also attacked one of agent Antoine Lahd's camps on the outskirts of (Dayr 'Ajm) and Kafr Rumman, using rockets and machineguns. They also attacked a position in the hills of 'Ali Al-Tahir. The frontlines east of Sidon were the scene of violent clashes today, while Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the south.

Maronite Bishop Injured in Attack by Gunman

NC241332 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpts] On Christmas Eve, and while the visiting French delegation was meeting with leaders of the Lebanese Forces to discuss various aspects of the Christian cause in Lebanon, another attack took place against the visible Christian presence, this time in Al-Biqa'. After the assassination of the Maronite assistant bishop and his nephew less than a month ago outside their house in western Al-Biqa', the Maronite bishop himself was attacked in the bishopric in Ksarah this morning. Bishop Georges Iskandar, pastor of the Maronite parish of Zahlah, was the target of a kidnap attempt this morning. A gunman knocked at the door of the bishopric, and when Bishop Iskandar opened, threatened him with a pistol. The bishop refused the man's request to accompany him, whereupon he was hit on the head with a pistol butt. The bishop had to be taken to Talshiha Hospital, where his wound was dressed.

Commenting on the incident, Bishop Iskandar said: This was a kidnapping attempt. I do not know who the culprit was or why he wanted to kidnap me. He said that reactions to such incidents are not conducive to the peace which we are strenuously seeking to establish. What matters is that we continue our efforts to prevent a repetition of such incidents for the sake of the homeland, love, coexistence, and peace.

MENA: Forces Facing Israel Reinforced, Redeployed
NC241230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Beirut, 24 Dec (MENA) — The Lebanese newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* has reported that the Syrian headquarters in Al-Biqa', in east Lebanon, rotated its forces and deployed special military forces along the front with Israel yesterday. The paper says that these forces have been reinforced with surface-to-air missile units. It adds that observation sources revealed yesterday that diplomatic missions in Beirut are showing an increased interest in developments in the situation resulting from the position taken by Israel on Syrian missiles within Syrian and Lebanese borders, including the area of Al-Biqa'.

Commentary on Israel Preparing To 'Wage War'
JN241418 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports from occupied Palestine confirm that Israel has begun preparing the Zionist society to wage war against Syria. Various world media yesterday reported the results of an Israeli public opinion poll which shows that 50 percent of those questioned believe that war with Syria may take place early next year. These reports from occupied Palestine indicate that the Zionist enemy has for a long time been preparing for aggression and that the issue of the missiles was a mere pretext to justify this aggression. It seems that the visit to the United States by Moshe Arens, minister without portfolio and former war minister, which took place a few days before the clamor about the Syrian missiles, was aimed at reaching agreement with the United States on the blueprint for the threat campaign and the military operations that would follow these threats.

Our emphasis on the U.S. role in raising tension in the region is based on a number of facts. During his latest tour of Europe, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held Syria responsible for hindering the U.S. schemes in the region, affirming that if it were not for the Syrian stand, the settlement that the United States had drawn up in agreement with Israel would have been implemented and become a fact. Moreover, the rabid campaign against Syria did not start when Syria exercised one of its basic rights, that is, redeploying its Armed Forces in accordance with its national and pan-Arab interests: This campaign started when the partners to the plot failed to impose the capitulation settlement through which they would besiege the region and impose the Camp David hegemony on it so that it would be under U.S.-Israeli domination with all its human and material resources. The U.S.-Israeli rancor against Syria was caused by Syria's basic role in stopping the U.S. onslaught and foiling all the capitulation plots. The U.S.-Israeli attempt to pressure Syria is in fact not new; however, they took the missile question as pretext to begin the current hostile campaign to undermine Syria's steadfastness and weaken its resolve to reject all the capitulation projects.

The Camp David partners tried to exert various kinds of pressures on Syria, but they failed to harm its pan-Arab stands thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad's wisdom and ability to deal with and control new developments in accordance with the aspirations of the Arab masses.

In light of these developments in the arena of struggle with the enemy, Syria is fully aware of what is going on around it. Syria is certain that all the enemy attempts will fail as they failed in the past. Syria is convinced that our Arab masses and all the forces of freedom and progress in the world will stand by it in facing and foiling the new imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Papers Reiterate Stand on Missile Issue
JN240929 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0818 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* says Syria's steadfastness against Camp David and its extensions, as well as its confrontation of plans to liquidate the Palestine question through the deviationist Palestinian rightwing line, has dealt a strong blow to U.S.-Zionist plans, whose aims are to achieve U.S. domination of the region and Israeli expansion at the expense of the occupied Arab territories.

In a comment titled "We Do Not Fear Threats," the paper adds: This is what has prompted Israel, with obvious backing from the United States, to direct threats against Syria and fabricate the missile issue, believing they can make Syria abandon its principled stands on pan-Arab issues headed by the Palestine question.

TISHRIN adds: Al-Asad's Syria has succeeded in taking firm, basic steps toward achieving strategic balance with the Israeli enemy. It is these steps which are disturbing the Tel Aviv leaders and their protectors in Washington. The paper continues: Al-Asad's Syria has the willpower for steadfastness and confrontation and the determination to defend itself and its security, as well as usurped Arab rights, at any cost.

TISHRIN concludes: Israel's threats and warnings will not scare Syria. This country will exercise the right of defending its sovereignty and independence, as well as the dignity and rights of the Arab nation. The Israeli threats will make Syria only more determined to adhere to its pan-Arab stand on the issues of its nation and to achieve its aspirations for strategic balance on the path of victory and liberation.

The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* says that any aggression against Syria is an aggression against the entire Arab nation and that it is not possible to predict the consequences of such an aggression for the security of the entire region.

Commenting in today's editorial, the paper says: The large-scale Arab and international condemnation of the U.S.-backed Israeli threats against Syria is categorical proof that Syria is not alone in facing these hostile threats. The entire world public opinion is supporting Syria, and the entire Arab nation is rallying around it as the bastion of steadfastness and the trench of confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist aggression.

The newspaper *AL-BA'TH* says that Israel's insistence in its news media on the necessity for the withdrawal of the Syrian missiles is considered an attempt to prepare Zionist public opin-

ion for a new war and aggression. Israel is fabricating crises so that when war takes place it would seem that Israel was forced into it.

In an editorial titled "Syria Defends Its Decision With Its Own Capabilities," the paper says: Syria's experiences with Israel are sufficient to make it fully understand the excuses Israel uses whenever it contemplates aggression and beats the war drums. *AL-BA'TH* concludes: Syria's reply to any aggression will be with all its capability and power. Syria always knows how to use its power on its land and also knows how to protect its decisions and repulse aggression.

Tripartite Agreement 'Ready To Be Signed'

JN251824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Louis Faris report from Damascus]

[Excerpt] This afternoon the Tripartite Committee of the Amal Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Forces resumed its talks in Damascus. Representatives of the three main Lebanese militias Muhammad Baydun, Marwan Hamadah, Akram Dhuhayyib, Michel Samahah, and As'ad al-Shaftari arrived in Damascus earlier today. They were immediately received by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The meeting lasted 2 and 1/2 hours after which we learned that the atmosphere was extremely positive and that the tripartite draft agreement is now in its final form and ready to be signed by the three leaders: Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Elie Hubayqah.

We also learned that a compromise formula has been reached concerning the last obstacle, that is, the transitional period. This period will be defined by the elected Chamber of Deputies.

Committee sources declined to fix a date for the signing of the agreement but agreed that it will take place within a few days.

Saudi businessman Rafiq al-Hariri arrived here today and he is closely watching developments.

It was interesting to see the five members of the Tripartite Committee having lunch together, along with [Lebanese Ba'th Party leader]'Asim Qansuh in a relaxed, cordial atmosphere. All of them left for Beirut after lunch.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Minister Arrives

JN232130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Damascus — Mohsen Rafiqdost, Iranian Revolutionary Guard minister, and his delegation arrived in Damascus tonight on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Ahmad Diyab, director of the national security office, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus, and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Rafiqdost praised the friendship and cooperation between Syria and Iran on the basis of resisting imperialism, Zionism, and all enemies of the peoples. He reaffirmed Iran's strong, firm support to Syria, which is facing imperialist and Zionist threats and all imperialist schemes in the region with steadfastness and pride.

He said: We in Iran are of the view that we should come here to reiterate to our Syrian brothers our absolute support for them in their battle against imperialism and Zionism to the last drop of our blood.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN241246 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mohsen Rafiqdost, Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps minister, and Dr Hedi, chairman of the Iranian Majlis' Foreign Relations Committee, at 1330 today. The Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks revolved around the situation in the region and issues of concern to Syria and Iran.

Katyushas Land Near Border, Cause No Damage

TA241727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Several katyusha rockets landed in the security zone in southern Lebanon today very near the Israeli border, but caused no damage. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the reverberations of the blasts were heard clearly in the Galilee panhandle.

Rabin Statements on Syrian Deployment, Activities

No Change on Golan Heights

TA251525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said there has been no change in the deployment, activities, and policy of the Syrians on the Golan Heights. The defense minister made these remarks at a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Replying to a question, Minister Rabin said that reports to this effect were unfounded. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal points out that the IDF is continuing to follow the deployment of the Syrian missiles along the Syrian-Lebanese border, missiles whose range covers Lebanese territory.

No Change in Deployment

TA260651 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's lightning denial yesterday that there was tension along the Syrian-Israeli front was not a spontaneous statement, but one carefully designed to lessen the chances of escalation.

Rabin said last night that there had been no change in Syrian deployment facing the Golan Heights. Syria, he said, had not changed its attitude to its obligations under the 1974 separation of forces agreement between the two countries.

The defence establishment yesterday judged the spew of headlines reporting such tension as "potentially escalatory in themselves." They could lead to misunderstanding by one of the sides, or be used as an excuse by Syria to initiate another redeployment of forces that could exacerbate the already tense situation created by its positioning of SAM-2 missiles on the Syrian-Lebanese border.

The reports of tension along the Syrian-Israeli border on the Golan were vociferously denied by senior military and diplomatic sources last night. According to these sources there have been no recent significant changes in Syrian deployment on the Golan, other than those necessitated by large-scale maneuvers being held by the Syrian Army. Nor has there been any indication that could justify a renewed assessment that the Syrians were closer to carrying out a surprise attack than in the recent past.

"We just do not understand where the report could have come from," said one senior official. He was referring to a report from *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY*, headlined in the Israeli press, that the Syrians were preparing for such an attack, and that there was more tension on the Golan Heights than at any other time since the Lebanese war.

The reason behind Rabin's quick denial is that while the situation may be unaltered on the Golan Heights, tension between Israel and Syria over Lebanon remains high. The Syrians have not removed the SAM-2 missiles they deployed on the border with Lebanon in late November and early December and observers say that there is almost no hope of a diplomatic resolution of the problem. The real test, they say, will only come if Israel decides to renew its air patrols over the Al-Biqa' and the Syrians decide to fire their missiles at these aircraft and score a hit. Then, they say, one of the sides will have to react.

Until such a test, there is no real reason for escalation either along the Golan or in Lebanon, since defence experts judge that neither side wants conflict. But they warn that the situation is "extremely fragile" and "there could be developments that neither side wants."

"Escalation has a dynamic of its own that is often beyond the control of either of the sides," *THE JERUSALEM POST* was told. "Reports like those yesterday, if not countered immediately, could turn into self-fulfilling prophecy."

Warning Against Harming Civilians

TA260701 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] The Arab countries currently possess weapons that can harm Israeli civilians deep inside Israel, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night at a meeting of the IDF rearguard command. But he added that if they should use those weapons, we will respond far more effectively.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Arab countries have missiles that can hit Israel without us being able to intercept them. Consequently, they can strike at large civilian centers. The other party must realize that any attempt to strike at us during war without discriminating between military and civilian objectives will encounter a massive Israeli response. We will then use all sorts of means to operate against the other side's civilian centers. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Syria, Tabah, Mormon University

TA261420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel is monitoring the developments on the border with Syria in order to prevent an escalation. Mr Peres was the guest of the Newspaper Editors Committee today.

On the question of Tabah Mr Peres said that the main thing is the nature of the agreement, whereas the time factor was less important. According to him the gap between the positions of Israel and Egypt can be bridged.

Regarding the amendment to the Law of Return, the prime minister said the Alignment members will not have freedom of vote because they were elected on the basis of a binding platform. He said that the Who is a Jew debate necessitates a parliamentary decision.

Regarding the issue of the Mormon University, Shim'on Peres said the government cannot decide to stop its construction, and therefore it will take no decision regarding this issue.

Peres Raises Questions on Tabah, Ties With Egypt

Mubarak Responds 'Favorably'

TA252006 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] President Mubarak has responded favorably to some of the questions posed by the prime minister regarding the future of mutual relations. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that a message brought today from Cairo by Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni includes satisfactory replies to some of the issues raised by the prime minister. Officials at the Prime Minister's Office refused to elaborate on the issues for which the prime minister had sought clarifications. It seems that Basyuni will leave again for Cairo to ask for further clarifications from the Egyptian president. When these clarifications are received, the prime minister and Minister Shamir will hold a meeting in order to submit the questions on Tabah and relations with Egypt to the Inner Cabinet for a decision, perhaps as early as next week.

Peres Seeks More Clarifications

TA261012 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office yesterday expressed satisfaction over the letter sent by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Nevertheless, Shim'on Peres will probably ask Egypt for additional clarifications on three subjects before he brings the agreements reached with Egypt before the Inner Cabinet. The letter, which was conveyed by the Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni, leaves two or three points still unclear. It does, however, contain clarifications of the main clauses on the Tabah issue: the search for other solutions during the first stage or arbitration (conciliation combined with arbitration); an arrangement in advance that will allow the losing side free access to the area and ownership of the facilities in Tabah; and defining the question that would be put to the arbiters.

In a secret meeting with Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressed his approval of most of the arrangements on the Tabah issue. This emerges from a report Tamir submitted to the prime minister and to the Alignment members within the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee following the talks he held in Cairo and Herzliyya during the meetings of the directors general.

Tamir reported that after Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid gave his support for the idea of conciliation combined with arbitration and for an arrangement in advance on the rights the losing side would have in the Tabah area, Al-Majid suggested that the proposals be put before the president. Tamir said that after Mubarak listened to his remarks, the Egyptian leader said: "I am sick and tired already of the Tabah issue; go and finish off the matter as you see fit."

Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said yesterday that he was not a party to the meetings reported by Tamir, and that in his opinion such talks between Tamir and Mubarak never took place at all. Kimche, however, did take part in the preparation of a document (together with Tamir and Defense Ministry representative Uri Talmor) in which the understandings reached with Egypt (including the conciliation-arbitration, the arrangements in Tabah after the arbitration, the return of the ambassador, and so on) are summed up. The document does not state that agreements were reached, but rather understandings.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali invited Avi Siton, former political adviser to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, to Egypt in order to complete the agreements on establishing another agricultural farm in the Nile Delta. The establishment of the farm (Gamiza B) is part of the agricultural agreement between Egypt and Israel within the framework of "Agridev," through which Israeli experts established (Gamiza A), a vegetable farm. Also dealing with this matter in Egypt is Shmu'el Pohoryles, director of the Joint Agricultural, Planning, and Development Authority in the Agriculture Ministry.

'Determined' To Improve Ties

TA261225 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1118 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel has gone a long way toward solving its problems with Egypt, and now he is determined to bring about a further improvement of relations and to resolve all the remaining problems.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that in a meeting with U.S. Congressman Steve Solarz the prime minister said that 'Arafat has not yet replied to Husayn regarding the conditions for the PLO joining the political process. As usual, the prime minister said, 'Arafat is incapable of making decisions. Israel, he said, is interested in having a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without the PLO.

Congressman Solarz, who returned from a visit to Amman, said that he found King Husayn to be determined to pursue the peace process. He claimed that Husayn is prepared for an international forum within the framework of which direct negotiations will be conducted between the parties.

Shamir 'Might Support' Clarifications

TA250613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The Inner Cabinet will be asked to reach a decision on the Egyptian matter only after the decisionmakers are convinced that the deal proposed to Israel is sincere, honest, and ensures in advance Israel's interests. This was learned from the contacts which were held in the past few days among the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister.

What, then, is Jerusalem waiting for? As said, today the prime minister is expected to receive written clarifications from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on two issues: First, assurance that after Israel agrees to examine the border issue at Tabah through arbitration, it will be permitted to present its case fully, and not according to Egyptian demands; second, the prime minister asked to receive a written assurance on the subject which has been named access to the Tabah area following arbitration. In other words, it is intended that the side losing the arbitration will be assured rights in the management of Tabah, in the joint management of facilities in the area, and in the safe entry and exit of citizens of the country that loses. These, then, are the two subjects.

We learned last night that up until now these matters were not explicitly assured during the talks the directors general held in Herzliyya and Cairo. Mr Peres, who approached the Egyptian president at the beginning of the week, did so with the knowledge of the vice prime minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Mr Rabin has already made his position clear: He will support the arbitration process and strengthening ties with Egypt, on condition that agreeing to arbitration ensures Israel's interests. Sources close to Yitzhaq Shamir told me they believe that if Israel is indeed presented with a consolidated political proposal, and if the clarifications are in writing, Mr Shamir might support them.

High-Level Source on Tabah

TA241827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] A high-level security source who participated in the peace talks with Egypt stated this evening that real progress was made in the deliberations on almost all issues raised by Israel. In a talk with our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, the source criticized the way in which Minister Shamir and the Foreign Ministry have represented the conclusion of the talks. Shimon Schiffer reports:

The testimony of the high-level security source was unequivocal: Real progress and understanding was achieved in the talks with Egypt regarding most of the controversial issues between the two countries. The security source said, and I quote: Regarding Yitzhaq Shamir's statement, which appeared in the media, that the only issues agreed upon were that talks will be held in Geneva and in English, there is nothing further from the truth. Yitzhaq Shamir is either being misled by his advisers or has ulterior motives, end quote.

The source explained that the issues agreed upon include the components of the bill of arbitration, the manner in which the arbiters will be chosen, and a timetable for implementing a political package deal that includes complete implementation of the normalization agreements and returning the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. The source said that amazing achievements were made in the talks, and we must not permit people to hurt Reserves Major General Avraham Tamir, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Political sources in Jerusalem added that the Americans' report to the prime minister and the vice prime minister on the Herzliyya talks corroborates Mr Tamir's version. This evening Jerusalem is awaiting the written clarifications the prime minister has requested of President Mubarak. The Egyptian president has already clarified that his country is willing to reach an agreement regarding an arrangement in Tabah that would allow free access and partnership in the assets in this area to the losing side in the arbitration. The Egyptian president has also clarified that during the first stages of arbitration, the arbiters will be able to use what he termed other methods to solve the problem, this meaning conciliation.

Minister Shamir's associates reiterated this evening that the Egyptians are firmly sticking to the principle of arbitration on Tabah, and that so far there are no formal accords on any issue. The Egyptians continue to oppose ideas raised by the Israeli representatives in the talks. We therefore must await the clarifications from Egypt.

Shamir Says Israel Will Not Bend To Hostage-Takers

TA260528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel will not respond to the demands of anyone abducting Jews in other countries. The minister was speaking in Tel Aviv after a recent spate of hostage-taking in Lebanon and the killing of one of them by Muslim extremists. Shamir said terrorists could not expect to extort anything from Israel in return for the release of Jewish hostages; Jews abroad are not responsible for the policy of Israel. We will seek to protect them to the best of our ability, but we will not deal with those who seek to turn them into hostages, he said.

On another issue, Foreign Minister Shamir said that the decision by the Ivory Coast to restore diplomatic relations with Israel has come in the wake of 12 years of activity by a number of people. He himself, he said, had secretly met with the president of the Ivory Coast twice.

On the recent tensions with the Liberal Party, the foreign minister conceded that there were difficultires, but he said he was sure the Likud would emerge as united as ever.

Praises Gen Lahd's Performance

TA251325 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1243 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met General Antoine Lahd this afternoon. Our political correspondent reports that Mr Shamir praised the performance of Lahd, saying it brought about calm and stability to southern Lebanon. Gen Lahd said his units have problems with UNIFIL, which hampers the activity of the army of southern Lebanon. Gen Lahd also complained about the cooperation between UNIFIL and hostile elements in the region. Mr Shamir answered that Israel is aware of this and is acting in this issue at the diplomatic level.

Rabin: Jordan Asked To Lift Export Restrictions

TA251252 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 85 p 2

[Report from Jerusalem by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] Israel has approached Jordan through the Americans with a request that it lift its restrictions on agricultural exports from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This was said yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during a tour of the Janin district.

Rabin met in Janin with the mayors of twons in the area (Tubas, Qabatiyah, and 'Arrabah), some of whom were elected, others who were appointed by the Israeli Government. Present at the meeting were the heads of chambers of commerce, Arab public figures, and Colonel Efrayim Sene, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria.

The talk between Rabin and the Arab notables focused on health and economic issues and on the problems and deficiencies in services and other areas which the residents of the region have encountered. The defense minister also visited the Ramallah municipality run by Israeli Mayor Moshe Biton and talked with him about the problems of the town. He also spoke with Sa'id Kamal, a senior Arab official in the administration, on hospitalization problems in the area.

Most of the Arab complaints concerned agricultural subjects, among them the restrictions by Jordan on agricultural exports from the territories. These restrictions emanate from the interests of the farmers on the east bank of the Jordan River and, as said, the defense minister informed his interlocuters of Israel's approach to Jordan on this matter.

PRC Asks for Agricultural Assistance, Instructors

TA251100 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] There has lately been an increasing demand by the PRC for agricultural instructors from Israel. The PRC is requesting through U.S. companies that it be sent Israeli instructors and experts in artificial insemination in dairy farming and in inbreeding. In addition, the demand has increased for sophisticated irrigation equipment for PRC farms.

All the requests from the PRC, despite the fact that they are conveyed through private commercial parties, require the Agriculture Ministry's approval. This ministry has made it clear that it is prepared to send these instructors, but it requests that they be permitted to enter the PRC on Israeli passports.

It should be pointed out that several months ago the PRC consented to lifting all restrictions on the entry of Israeli passport holders effective 1 January 1986. Political sources, however, expressed the fear that despite this promise, some reservations on this subject might have cropped up recently in Beijing. The sources added that in the near future the PRC's agreement in principle will be put to the test.

Knesset Votes Down No-Confidence Motion

TA241722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Knesset has voted down the no-confidence motion submitted by Agudat Yisra'el, with only Agudat Yisra'el voting in favor of it. From the Knesset podium, Knesset member Menahem Porush accused the mayor of Jerusalem of having received money from the Mormons [reference to Mormon university being built in Jerusalem]. He stated this after announcing that Agudat Yisra'el does not intend to quit the coalition despite the no-confidence motion. According to him, only a party represented in the Cabinet must quit if it votes in favor of a no-confidence motion.

Arson Suspected in Bus Depot Fire; 100 Buses Burned

TA240738 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by Rafa'el Ga'on]

[Text] At 1030 on the night of 23 December a fire broke out in the Egged depot in the Erez junction, completely burning out 100 buses and seriously damaging another 25.

Three fire engines from Gaza and another three from Ashqelon, as well as 16 firemen, worked hard to prevent all 400 buses in the depot being burned. Egged spokesman Gid'on Talmor told our correspondent that, by a rough estimate, the damage would amount to more than 2 billion shekels, about 20 million shekels for each bus.

The Gaza District police and the fire department have begun an investigation into the reasons for the fire. Gaza District spokesman Chief Inspector David Bakhar said last night that it was reasonable to assume that arson was involved, either terrorist or criminally inspired. However, other possibilities were also being examined. He recalled that over the past year two Egged buses carrying workers to Israel were set on fire in the Gaza Strip, one in Rafah and one in Jabalyah, and the people who had set them on fire were found and sentenced to jail.

The experts who examined the way the buses were parked in the depot at the Erez junction expressed anger at the fact the buses had been too close to each other, the distance between them being

no more than 30-50 cm, so that each bus that caught fire set two others on fire, the one on its right and the one on its left. In this depot, as in all other Egged depots, there is a guard and it was the depot's guard who noticed the fire and summoned his superiors.

Security Forces Capture Arsonists

TA240905 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0845 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Yesterday security forces in the Gaza Strip caught the perpetrators of the arson attack that took place on Sunday at the bus depot near the Erez junction in the strip. Our correspondent reports that the terrorists are still being interrogated. We remind our listeners that in this arson attack, 100 Egged company buses were set ablaze, and another 25 were damaged.

Inquiry Body Decides No Arson in IDF Base Fire

TA240812 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
24 Dec 85 p 2

[Report by Ya'ir 'Amiqam]

[Text] The inquiry commission that investigated the circumstances surrounding the fire in the living quarters of an IDF base in Mevo Shilo, in which 8 soldiers died, has submitted its findings to the chief of staff, stating that it was impossible to determine with any certainty the cause of the fire.

The commission, which was headed by Brigadier General 'Amram (Matzne'a), did not discover the cause of the fire, but did determine without any doubt that there was no question of arson.

At the same time, the commission laid down procedures for safeguarding soldiers' living quarters, including the installation of smoke detectors in the buildings. Additional action will be taken to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. The commission also decided on a series of rules for the positioning of fire-fighting equipment in bases and command-level and administration-level authority for the stationing of watchmen or an alert squad for cases of emergency.

AL-SHA'B Decries 'Pressure Campaign' Against PLO

TA241655 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Dec 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Those Who Dance to the American Tunes"]

[Text] The pressure campaign to force the PLO to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 is continuing and escalating. Many sides are participating in this campaign, all of whom are dancing to the musical tune originating in Washington, which has made the recognition of these resolutions a condition to start a dialogue with the PLO. In other words, all those exerting pressure on the PLO are playing the role of a middleman favoring Washington.

One of these middlemen appeared the night before last on American television screens in the person of Husni Mubarak, who threatened Yasir 'Arafat that he will be the big loser if he does not accept the two resolutions. Mubarak was magnanimous: He offered 'Arafat a 2-month deadline to announce his recognition of the two resolutions; otherwise, Jordan will proceed separately in its peace initiative. Another middleman appeared yesterday in Amman in the person of Claude Cheysson, former French external relations minister, who in his turn "called" on the PLO to recognize the two resolutions.

Despite the fact that Palestinian sources affirmed yesterday that the PLO has refused to bow to all these pressures, we believe they will not cease but rather escalate, particularly when the pattern of Arab alliances is being redrawn. Ultimately, these pressures will serve the American plan to impose a solution on the region that ignores the PLO and bypasses the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

It is not necessary for us to repeat the justifications for the established Palestinian rejection of these two resolutions, for any Palestinian child is capable of providing the answer and the right explanation. However, we can briefly say that acceptance of the two resolutions is tantamount to political suicide and a renunciation of achievements and goals in a long and difficult process. The Palestinian leadership affirmed and is reiterating that it will not agree or consent to this, that it will not bow to pressures emanating from numerous sources, and that it will continue to adhere to the goals and programs formulated and approved by the legitimate organizations to which the Palestinian masses have given their blessing and are committed.

ALGERIA

Court Sentences Ben Bella Supporters

LD251954 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] After a 5-day session, the State Security Court in Medea this afternoon returned its verdict in the case of Ben Chennouf and others accused with him. Twenty-one people were found not guilty, three of them due to the expiration of the prosecution's deadline; these were Fatouma Ouzegane, Mohamed Seghir Naccache, and Yalaoui Salah.

Here is the list of those conviced and the penalties imposed:

Abdelawheb Ben Chennouf, Mohamed Hayder, and Ben Azouz Hayder — 20 years in jail, in absentia.
Abdallah Seghir, alias Lachel — 13 years solitary confinement.
Mohamed Mergadji, Rabaine Ali Faouzi, and Nadir Ben Makhlouf — 10 years in jail.
Mohamed Abid Allah and Lyes Melkmi — 7 years in jail .
Ammour Ben Ammour, Taieb Aydi, and Tahar Temdet — 5 years in jail .
Ali Ben Othman — 3 years in jail .
Jamaleddine Tibermasine — 2 years in jail.
Mustafa Fellij, Ahmed Fellij, Mohamed Fellij, and Ahmed Ben Salem — 1 year in jail.
Finally, Kaddour Maaskri — a 5,000 dinar fine.

Bendjedid Receives Ibrahimi, Burkinabe Minister

LD251125 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Algiers, 25/12/85 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid audienced here the Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi on the eve of his departure to Bamako and Ouagadougou as a special envoy of the head of state and bringing messages to President Moussa Traore and Captain Thomas Sankara.

On another development the president of the Republic audienced the Burkinabe minister of external relations and cooperation, Basile Laita Guissou, who handed him a message from Burkinabe President Thomas Sankara.

FLN Holds Extraordinary Conference in Algiers

Session Opens 24 Dec

LD241802 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Correspondents' dispatches from the FLN extraordinary conference in Algiers on 24 Dec]

[Excerpt] In this dispatch we will hear a description of the opening session of the party's extraordinary conference and its work on the first day. For a start, let us join our colleague, Abedelkader Lalami, who will tell us about this morning's proceedings:

Following the opening of the FLN's extraordinary conference and in accordance with Clause 71 of the party's internal rules, the bureau of the conference was formed under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN. Other members of the bureau are: brothers Boualem Baki, Hocine Benlamalem, Djeloul Melaika, Mohamed Abada, and Z'hor Ounissi. After that, the technical secretariat for the conference was formed. Its members are: brothers Mostafa Benzaza, Brahim Mehrez, Bekacem Abdellaoui, Ahmed Boucena, Ahmed Kaceri, and Mohamed Ramdane.

The agenda of the conference was adopted and its central point is the enrichment of the National Charter. The conference's committees were then formed. These are: the Membership Authenticity Committee, the Ideological Platforms Committee, the Comprehensive Development Committee, the National Institutions Committee, and the General Policy Committee. Following approval of the conference's internal regulations, the agenda of the conference was read.

President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, secretary general of the FLN, and chairman of the conference, delivered an important report in which he dealt with the most important national and international issues. The highlights of this report will be reviewed by our colleagues Mohamed Bouazara and Abdelkader Taboub:

At the beginning of his report the secretary general of the FLN and president of the Republic dealt with a number of points concerning enrichment of the National Charter and with some national issues. The brother president expressed deep satisfaction with the atmosphere prevailing over the discussions of the militant and popular bases to enrich this important historical and idological document. He conveyed the political leadership's praise to all militants who had supervised the enrichment process, and to all citizens who offered suggestions for enriching this document; this will add to the 1976 Charter and the latest developments at various levels. The secretary general of the party stressed that in accordance with all the reports from the popular base, we have taken into account all their suggestions. Then, he pointed to this principle, which is represented by the participation of militants and citizens, since the party's fourth conference, in the discussion of all issues concerning the revolution and the homeland. He stressed that this principle has led us into a long, frank, and democratic debate about this important document before the party's extraordinary conference so that the document will determine the future march of Algeria.

After noting the achievements of 1980, when our economic situation was evaluated an extraordinary conference, he stressed that the changes and developments in the national and the international arenas have compelled us to pause to enrich the National Charter and review it, but not to retract from it. He pointed out that the new requirements have imposed this.

The brother secretary general of the party then indicated that our world is developing with striking rapidity and that this influences the present generation, whose desires we must fulfill. He stressed that this does not mean imitating others. The secretary general of the party discussed a number of aims which the

new document must crystalize, such as formation, creation, and innovation; these must not remain just mottoes. Then he affirmed that we reject inflexibility and that adherence to principles does not mean inflexibility. He called for a courageous deal with our history, pointing out that our history began before the dawn of Islam over these territories.

He then dealt with the socialist choice in Algeria and explained that it is a method that will enable us to fairly distribute the nation's resources in the framework of social justice, which is initiated by our true religion. He affirmed the role of the mass organizations and the FLN at all levels, by stressing the role of the mujahidin, who sacrificed during the armed revolution for the liberation of the homeland and who are today participating in building the economic and social edifice of Algeria.

The brother secretary general of the party called for self-reliance and providing the various material means and moral conditions to achieve this goal. He then talked about the role that should be played by the Algerian universities, institutions, and youth in the construction of the homeland in order to overcome technological challenges. He also discussed the role of Algerian culture and stressed that it must deal with the development of the human being.

On agriculture and irrigation, the secretary general of the party pointed out that to achieve the slogan, Security of Food, we must develop these two sectors.

On development and industrialization, the secretary general of the FLN stressed that in order to control our industries and improve management we must consolidate our light and medium industries, which will also enable us to break free from technological constraints. After noting that we live in a merciless world, where the weak have no place, he reaffirmed the importance of self-reliance and economizing, in accordance with our available means, so that we do not have to resort to foreign help and do not lose the freedom of our political decisions.

In discussing political issues, he first began with the Western Sahara. He pointed out that the victories achieved at various levels have emphasized the just stance of Algeria toward this issue, noting that the United Nations and the OAU have agreed on a resolution supporting the cause of the Saharan people. He also reiterated Algeria's commitment to taking part in a peaceful solution to this issue.

On the Arab world situation, Brother Chadli Bendjedid stated that the cornerstone of the Arab nation's problem is represented by the Palestinian problem and he noted the latest Arab efforts aimed at calming the situation and clearing the atmosphere. He stressed that these endeavors must not be at the expense of the Palestinian cause, and said that Algeria has, and will always be, on the side of the Palestinian cause. The brother president explained that Palestinian ranks and their stand must be united to enable us to effectively support the Palestinian cause and people.

The secretary general of the party also dealt with Algeria's relations with African countries. He explained that they are within the framework of South-South cooperation and that these relations have been developed in a positive manner, as have our relations with the nonaligned countries. Algeria's policies are totally in line with its membership in the Nonaligned Movement.

Relations with the socialist bloc are also good and the level of cooperation is continuously increasing, Brother Chadli Bendjedid explained. He pointed out that the potential for benefit is huge through our dealings with this bloc, led by the Soviet Union. On the other hand, the brother president affirmed that our relations with the West are in our interest and believes that it is a choice within which we can actively work without any problems. This is also true regarding Algeria's relations with Mediterranean countries, which are characterized by a continous improvement in the framework of mutual respect.

At the end of his report, Brother Chadli Bendjedid dealt extensively with many domestic issues and reviewed the country's long march since the party's fourth conference. He pointed out that we have managed to overcome many problems and that the requirements of the present are different from those of the seventies. Brother President Chadli Bendjedid dealt with the problem of how to control planning, management, and organization of the institutions, as well as the problems of education, health, irrigation, and agriculture. Here he pointed out that some positive results have been achieved. However, shortcomings exist despite all the efforts being made, such as the deficit recorded in housing projects. The current and future practical measures taken will solve this very difficult problem. In this respect, the brother president stressed the importance of suggestions and opinions expressed by the people during the debates on the enrichment of the National Charter. He emphasized that the aspirations of the people should be taken into consideration and dealt with.

Bendjedid Concludes 25 Dec Session

LD252213 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Correspondent's dispatch from the FLN extraordinary congress, held at the 5th July Olympic Complex]

[Excerpts] Only a day separates us from the end of the FLN extraordinary congress. President Chadli Bendjedid concluded this evening's session following 2 hours of discussions.

President of the Republic Brother Chadli Bendedid, FLN secretary general spoke before ending the congress's morning session. He explained some of the points mentioned in the discussions, especially regarding the subject of political and ideological formation. The brother president said:

[Begin recording] I would like to explain some of the points mentioned by some of the speakers. I am talking about political training in the party. All the brothers will recall that we laid the cornerstone at the end of 1984 or the beginning of 1985 for the higher school for state cadres. This does not mean that we have abandoned this matter, but that we have opted for building this big school which will take both the youth or future cadres of the Algerian state and also the cadres of the FLN.

We are seeking not only work in economics, but also work in the integration and coordination of all party and state cadres. When they are all trained in the same place, I believe it will be quite beneficial for future cadres and also for general attitudes, whether towards economic and administrative or other political matters. Such a harmony in attitudes will help party and state cadres to understand each other easily because they will have graduated from the same school. This will happen in a few years in my opinion. This higher school undoubtedly will contribute in the formation of future cadres, in the economic and scientific fields and also in the ideological and political fields.

The second point, I heard some brothers discuss was about establishing a supreme council for supervising the laws and regulations. [Words indistinct]. However, when establishing such an institution, we must specify its authority and attempt to avoid replacing other existing institutions. We all know, in this connection, that the law authorizes the National People's Assembly to supervise. Therefore, why doesn't the National People's Assembly's mission allow it to be commissioned to implement this supervision? [Passage indistinct]

However, we say that these are the institutions of the state. They are institutions which were formed, or perhaps their missions were specified, in the past. The National People's Assembly acts not only as a legislator, but also as the institution with the authority to supervise in the field. Even in the implementation of laws that have [word indistinct] to do with the state budget, which it has ratified, the assembly has the right to supervise [words indistinct]. There also is the auditing council. I believe that the brothers should not forget. The matter is not an easy one. These institutions began in the life of the nation and the state, and we must not expect the benefit in one year. [Passage indistinct]

The important thing is that there are institutions today which work and have clear regulations. There also are the state institutions: the government and its organs, the organs of supervision, and especially the organs of finance. As I pointed out yesterday, when the state and government began supervising, because I hear the brothers speak a lot [word indistinct] of the private sector. Brothers, we have specified the framework in which the private sector will participate. We have drawn the guidelines, a red line [words indistinct]. There also are laws. Naturally, the state and government organs will supervise. The confusion that I noted yesterday occurred from the time we began, we truly supervise, probably [words indistinct] but supervise all of the peoples' incomes and ascertain if they truly are in accord with the state laws.

Therefore, we formed the institutions demanded by the National Charter and by the resolutions of all previous congresses. If it is necessary to form such a council for following up the implementation of the laws and regulations, I do not mind, on the contrary. However, the only thing I will say, is that when we contemplate forming an institution, whatever its role, we must prepare for it, clearly define its authority in advance, and avoid allowing it to usurp the authority of existing institutions. We are thinking of this, and I promise you we will form this institution when the time is right and when we are convinced of its necessity. It will then help the country and help the party and state institutions in control and supervision. This is what is wanted to [words indistinct]. Thank you. [End recording]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Greetings From Husak, Others

LD241914 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Athani 11, Dec 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received a number of greetings on the new year.

These came from:

Gustav Husak, the secretary-general of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Margaret II, the queen of Denmark, Mrs. Agatha Barbara, the president of Malta, Prince Henry Rick, the prime minister of Spain Fellipe Gonzalez, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar the U.N. secretary general and Mr. Chon Tu-Hwan the president of the Republic of Korea.

Al-Turayki To 'Calm' Situation in Mali, Burkina

LD251829 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli 25 Dec (JANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Fatih Revolution, has asked Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, to go to the Republic of Mali and to the Burkina Faso Jamahiriyah to familiarize himself with the explosive situation between the two countries. He will also act to calm the situation as a continuation of Libya's previous efforts to resolve their border problems.

Dr al-Turayki will meet with Malian President Moussa Traore and Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution of the Burkina Faso Jamahiriyah during this mission.

Committee for Clearing Arab Atmosphere 'Fails'

LD251857 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli 25 Dec (JANA) — A responsible source has informed JANA that Morocco and the UAE's efforts within the context of the Committee for Clearing the Arab Atmosphere have failed.

The source said that Libya has not agreed to be the first to halt the propaganda campaigns as suggested by this committee. The source added that Libya believes that these propaganda campaigns are the result of serious political differences between those concerned with the committee's mission and that the propaganda campaigns will halt spontaneously after the serious political differences have been tackled and resolved.

The last Arab summit, held under the patronage of King Hassan II, had asked the committee to act to clear the inter-Arab climate, which is clouded due to the grave political differences between the concerned quarters.

State Department Comment on 'Military Plan' Viewed

LD241428 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The official spokesman for the U.S. State Department Charles Redman refused to comment, at a press conference yesterday evening, on press reports to the effect that there is an American military plan aimed at the Arab Libyan people. He said: We do not comment on possible secret military plans.

Once again, these American statements reveal the deliberate aggressive intentions of the American Administration to harm the options of the Arab Libyan people who have decided to die in defense of their freedom and to turn Libya into a cemetary for any forces attempting to commit aggression against them.

The refusal of the official spokesman to deny the existence of an American military plan against Libya confirms the fact that America continues to follow a policy hostile to the Arab Libyan people, seeking to prevent them from achieving progress, and to affect its brave positions on pan-Arab issues and world national liberation movements.

British-Libyan Society Denounces U.S. 'Plots'

LD241719 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The British-Arab Libyan Solidarity and Friendship Society has denounced American imperialist plots against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership.

In a communique issued in London, the Society said: We denounce U.S. interference in Arab affairs. We are convinced that the Arab Libyan people will foil all American conspiracies.

In the communique, the society declares its solidarity with the Arab Libyan people, and their brave confrontation of American provocations.

Sudanese Ministerial Delegation Visits Tripoli

Arrives 25 Dec

LD250731 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli 25 Dec (JANA) — A delegation from sisterly Sudan, including brothers Ibrahim Taha Ayyub, minister of foreign affairs; Sayyid Ahmad al-Sayyid, minister of trade, cooperation, and supply; and Stanley James Wango, minister of public service and labor, last night arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Brother Ibrahim Taha Ayyub told the JANA correspondent that this visit is within the framework of consultations between the two fraternal countries to bolster bilateral relations and find other ways to cooperate in various fields.

The Sudanese minister also stressed that he is bringing the greetings of the Sudanese people to their brethren, the people of the Jamahiriyah, and greetings of the leadership of Sudan to the historical leadership of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Meets With Foreign Secretary

LD251538 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning met with the Sudanese ministerial delegation which includes the ministers of foreign affairs; trade, cooperation, and supply; and labor, who are visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting they reviewed the relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. They stressed the importance of bilateral joint action for implementing the agreements and programs previously agreed upon for the mutual benefit of the two fraternal people and ultimately to achieve an economic merger between Libya and Sudan.

This morning, the first session of the Arab Libyan-Sudanese joint committee on economic and social cooperation began and it will discuss how to ensure the development and strengthening of relations of cooperation between the fraternal countries.

Social, Economic Committee Meets

LD252026 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 25 Dec 85

["Joint Libyan-Sudanese Committee for Social and Economic Co-operation Starts Its First Session in Tripoli" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Athani 12, Dec. 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The first session of the meeting of the Joint Libyan-Sudanese Committee for Social and Economic Co-operation started this morning at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to study the bases and means conducive to the development and strengthening of the bilateral co-operation between the two sisterly countries.

The first speaker was the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau who stressed the importance of holding such meetings and the important role assumed by this committee in order to attain better co-operation according to bilateral joint work fulfilling the joint interest of the two countries.

He said that the racial, historical and spiritual relations between the Sudanese and Libyan peoples demanded that we embody them through fruitful and effective co-operation in all fields and work for its continuation to achieve the joint interest.

The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau said that despite the extraneous conditions and the efforts made by certain elements to seperate the two peoples of the Sudan and Libya, the continuing relations have not be [as received] set apart and have remained stronger and more closely welded than ever for the purpose of the joint interest of the two brotherly peoples.

He lauded the victory of the people's revolution in the Sudan saying that this revolution made it possible for us in Jamahiriyah to meet again with the Sudanese people and work together to strengthen the unity of our Arab nation and strengthen the Arab action hostile to capitulation and submission to the hegemony of imperialism and neo-colonialism.

Then, the Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, Ibrahim Taha Ayyub, spoke and he lauded the support and backing given by Jamahiriyah for the Sudanese people for the purpose of the triumph of its people's revolution and for the purpose of solving Sudan's problems, be they political, economic or of security.

He went on to say that they in the Sudan highly appreciated this support and assistance and appreciated the honest stand taken by the Libyan Arab people by its brotherly people of the Sudan against the previous regime that was a burden on the Sudanese people for years, and that Jamahiriyah was one of the first countries that carried out its commitments towards the Sudanese people.

The Sudanese foreign minister stressed his country's desire to develop and strengthen the co-operation relations and the work for the fulfillment of the joint agreements and programmes agreed upon during the previous visits made between the two countries.

Those participating in the first session of the meeting on economic co-operation of the joint Libyan-Sudanese committee are secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau and a number of experts and technicians of various secretariats in Jamahiriyah. As regards the Sudanese side, the participants are ministers of 'foreign affairs', 'commerce, co-operation and supply' and 'labour' together with a number of other Sudanese officials from Sudanese ministeries.

Sudan's Ayyub, Al-Turayki Comment

JN261041 Khartoum SUNA in English 1012 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 26 (SUNA) — The joint meetings of the Sudanese-Libyan Arab committee for soci-economic co-operation is scheduled to wind up its meetings today.

The committee will discuss basis and means of promoting cooperation relations between the two countries.

The secretary of the Libyan Popular Committee of Popular Office for Foreign Liaison (foreign minister) hailed the Sudanese revolution which made it easy for Libya to meet again with Sudanese people to work jointly for the strengthening of Arab solidarity.

The meetings of the Sudanese Libyan Arab committee play an important role in achieving better cooperation for common interests.

Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub expressed Sudan's desire to strengthen its ties with Libya and to implement the joint programmes which were agreed upon during the reciprocal visits between the two countries' officials.

Ayyub hailed Libya's backing to solve Sudan's economic, political and security problems.

It is to be recalled that the foreign minister arrived in Libya on Tuesday leading Sudan's delegation participating in the committee's meetings.

YAR Congressional Delegation Visits Jamahiriyah

Attends Basic People's Congress

LD241556 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabia Thani 10, Dec. 24, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, the secretary-general of the Permament Committee of the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), and his accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to Jamahiriyah attended yesterday evening part of the session held by Al-Dhuhra Basic People's Congress in Tripoli.

Al-Asbahi addressed the congress. At the beginning of his speech he conveyed the greetings of the Yemeni Arab people to its brother the Libyan Arab people and to the leader of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution. He stressed that his presence in this congress confirms the participation of the Yemeni Arab people in it, because the Yemeni Arab people get along with its Jamahiri Arab nature. He said: 'We work towards consolidating the people's authority in all our Arab nation's countries'.

Al-Asbahi, in his address, confirmed that it is only natural that such meetings are made alive and ticking, a movement that makes history a strong will in which the Arab character is liberated from degradation and backwardness. 'We must mobilise our forces to confront the Zionist danger and the Zionist death train that overwhelms our nation and which does not differentiate between the little and the big or the close and the far. He confirmed that the basic people's congresses embody the truthful Arab movement towards consolidating the masses' authority.

Protocol Signed

LD251510 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tripoli Rabi Athani 12, Dec. 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Yesterday morning in Tripoli, a protocol for joint cooperation between the secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the General Popular Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) was signed.

The protocol was signed by the assistant secretary of the secretariat of the General People's Congress and Muhammad Ahmad al-Asbahi the secretary-general of the Permanent Committee of the General Popular Congress in YAR.

It includes the confirmation of the importance of meetings, more exchanges of popular visits and the holding of joint cultural and youth weeks. It also stresses the importance of spreading and distribution the explanations of the *Green Book*, the Yemeni

National Charter and its literatures, the action towards the twinning of some towns in both countries in the aim of increasing the links between the two brotherly peoples.

The signing ceremony was attended by a number of secretaries of the people's congresses, people's committees, trade union congress and the Yemeni people's delegation.

Al-Asbahi Departs

LD260745 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Brother Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of Permament Committee of the YAR General People's Congress, praised the giant achievements of the Libyan Arab people through the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. This came in a statement after his departure from Tripoli yesterday at noon after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

Officials Return From Arab African Union Talks

LD241305 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Casablanca, Dec 24. (MAP) — Minister delegate to the Moroccan premier in charge of economic affairs Moulay Zine Zahidi and the secretary general of the Arab African Union (AAU) Abdelwahed Radi, arrived here Monday coming from Tripoli where they participated in the works of the preparatory committee of the AAU Executive Committee Council meeting.

The Moroccan minister told the press here that the preparatory meeting had examined files pertaining to all the fields of cooperation and complementarity of the union. "We have also evoked various aspects of economic, technical, cultural, scientific and information cooperation," said Moulay Zine Zahidi adding that the works of the meeting had also focused on coordination at the Arab, African, and Islamic levels.

The works of the committee have been a total success and the results obtained will soon be submitted to the AAU Executive Council which is the main body of the union, further explained Moulay Zine Zahidi.

The Moroccan minister also recalled that during his stay in the Libyan capital, he had conferred with a number of Libyan officials such as the secretaries of popular committees for oil, public services and social security.

The AAU secretary general for his part indicated that 1985 was marked by the meeting of all the bodies stemming from the union and recalled all the recommendations of these bodies which have been approved by the presidency and which are soon to be submitted to the Executive Council for implementation. He said 1986 will be marked by intensive activity of the union starting with the union's commissions which gather in January. He also expressed hope to see the union accomplish its mission for the benefit of the two peoples and in conformity with directives by King Hassan II of Morocco and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Sept 1st Revolution.

SUDAN

Siwar al-Dhahab Testifies in Falasha Case

GF232004 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Dec (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, today appeared before the State Security Court that is trying the suspects in the transportation of Falashas to Israel, to testify.This is the first event of its kind in Sudan.

His excellency appeared before the court in a normal session which was attended by the attorney general. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab gave a military salute before the court when he left after testifying. During the testimony he said that he had occupied the post of deputy commander in chief of the popular Armed Forces from 13 September 1983 until March 1985, when he was appointed commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Gen Siwar al-Dhahab said that he had submitted a report to Numayri, the former commander in chief, in which he explained that there were indications of an organized air transportation operation of refugees from Khartoum. However, the commander in chief explained to him that these operations were an ordinary transportation of refugees in order to obtain political asylum from embassies in Khartoum. They were arriving in Sudan in secret groups and obtain exit permits from Sudan. Gen Siwar al-Dhahab added that the commander in chief had denied the existence of an organized transportation of the Falasha. After that 'Abd al-'Aziz Shidu, counsel for the defense, delivered a short speech expressing the appreciation of the defense committee to Gen Siwar al-Dhahab for his testimony before the court. He noted that this affirmed the real practice of democracy and its genuineness.

The court will begin interrogation of the first defendant, 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, first deputy of the ousted president and chief of the state security forces, during the next session of the court on Saturday. This will be after the prosecutingcommittee has completed the presentation of its (?witnesses) this morning.

'Abd al-'Aziz (Shiddu), the first defendant's attorney, today demanded that the court give him a copy of the defendant's statements in the investigation record and time to question the first defendant. The court explained that the defense attorney has the right to inspect the investigation record.

The court revealed that the second, third, fourth, and fifth defendants, who were given conditional general exemptions [word indistinct] to stay as defendants particularly that the court had previously decided that the application of the exemption conditions by hearing [words indistinct] and that the court has still the [word indistinct] of the defense and there is no chance of seperating the case of the exempted defendants from that of the first.

Daf'allah Views Internal, Regional Issues

PM231245 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 17 Dec 85 p 19

[Interview with Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah by Dominique Lagarde in Paris — date not given]

[Text] *LE QUOTIDIEN*: A few days ago fighting broke out again in southern Sudan, where a cease-fire had been accepted by John Garang until 6 December. Do you still hope to reach a negotiated agreement which could end the civil war?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: Back in April, immediately after our people's revolution, we promised in the charter that was adopted by all parties and trade unions to return to the Addis Ababa agreements on autonomy for the south. The problem of the south cannot be solved by military means. It must be solved by dialogue, and we have proposed a national conference. At the beginning of June, I wrote a letter to John Garang to tell him that we too had fought against Numayri and that, since we had restored democracy, it was time for him and his supporters to join us and discuss Sudan's problems in order to reach a consensus. At the end of October I received a reply from John Garang, who said that he favored dialogue, peace, and democracy and was prepared to take part in a national conference. I then sent him another letter to say that we were going to set a date for this conference and draw up an agenda and to ask him whether he had any suggestions. I have not yet received a reply to this second letter.

LE QUOTIDIEN: One of the demands made by the people in the south relates to the abrogation of the shar'ia, imposed by Numayri. What is your position on this?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: There are several parties in Sudan which claim to follow the Islamic philosophy. The problem is not so much Islamic law as the way it was applied by Numayri. We are already improving the way in which this law is applied. Aside from that, I believe that this problem ought to be discussed in the framework of the national conference.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What progress have you made in your negotiations with the IMF in the economic sphere?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: I do not think that we are far from an agreement. Nonetheless, the IMF's latest proposals have not been fully approved by the cabinet. We are going to make counterproposals in the next few days on these points of disagreement. In principle we want to continue our cooperation with the IMF.

LE QUOTIDIEN: I would now like to turn to foreign policy, starting with what worries some of your neighbors most — your relations with Libya. What are the facts?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: We are trying to have good-neighborly relations with Libya, which does not mean that we agree on everything. These good relations with Libya do not prevent us from having equally good relations with other countries.

LE QUOTIDIEN: There has been talk of a military agreement....

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: There is no agreement, not even a draft agreement. The Libyans simply supply us with small quantities of arms and supplies.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What about France? What do you expect from it?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: We have very good relations with France, which is helping us through the EEC. We are hoping for more direct bilateral aid, especially in our fight against famine and desertification. We appreciate France's stance against apartheid in South Africa and President Mitterrand's recent statements on the industrialized countries' responsibilities with regard to African debt.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What do you think of President Mitterrand's warnings to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on Chad?

Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah: That is President Mitterrand's and Col al-Qadhdhafi's business.

Israeli Attack on PLO Fighters Reportedly Planned

JN251049 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum Dec 25 (SUNA) The Air Forces have been ordered to tighten supervision on any target that enters the Sudanese air space defense minister and member of the Transitional Military Council Major General 'Uthman Abdallah said in a statement to the daily *AL-SAHAFAH* issued here today. He explained that the step was taken following reports that an attack has been planned on the Palestinian fighters camps in both Sudan and Democratic Yemen by Israeli warplanes. The minister said the PLO representative in Khartoum has presented him with a report containing information on Israeli planes sorties over the Red Sea in preparation for hitting the Palestinian camps in Sudan and Yemen. The minister affirmed that the information contained in the report was similar to that the Sudanese Air Forces have.

Legal Committee To Submit Numayri File to Egypt

GF231924 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Dec (SUNA) — The legal committee assigned to prepare the file on crimes committed by former President Numayri will leave for Cairo next week to submit this file to the Egyptian legal authorities. The file is being completed by the committee.

This was announced by Anwar Izzaddin, chairman of the committee, in a statement today. He noted that until now the committee has leveled six (?charges) against Numayri in a number of cases, including the Falasha airlift to Israel, the transfer of 10 million [currency not identified] from foreign loans for his personal use, the burying of nuclear refuse in Sudanese territory, and other cases.

The committee chairman stated that the accusations in the file

have been consolidated by those concerned in the courts administration and Foreign Ministry and are backed by law.

A source in the attorney general's chamber indicated that the formation of this committee was to curb the crimes of the ousted president and present punishable charges against him. This is to contest his status as a political refugee in accordance with Egyptian law and to extradite him according to the agreement of criminal exchange signed between the Arab League member-countries in 1973, the agreement signed between Egypt and Sudan in 1902, and the 1957 law on the extradition of criminals.

Former Finance Minister Interviewed on Economics

GF241712 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Dec 85 p 18

[Interview with former Finance Minister 'Awad 'Abd al-Majid by *AL-ITTIHAD* correspondent 'Afaf Mahjub — date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Mahjub] Why was your economic policy refused?

['Abd al-Majid] The achievements realized by Sudan did not please some politicians there, who do not have a future in light of the democracy and political stability. Thus, they tried to kill this success, obstruct its course, and step up their campaigns. After agreeing with these policies they tried to dump them, even though they know that we are witnessing an economic crisis. There is an economic committee in the Council of Ministers that does not have a single economist on it. This is the committee that criticized the policies I set and did not even consider the opinion of those that advised it to agree with the IMF.

[Mahjub] But you said that the Council of Ministers had approved your policies?

['Abd al-Majid] This is an issue that confuses me too. Some of those who objected to these policies told their friends that the matter is personal. Many of the council members say that I do not treat them equally. The truth is that I am a specialist. There is no other specialist in the economic council. Sometimes I get angry with some ministers when theycontradict economic facts without knowledge and logic. Once, the industry minister took advantage of my absence to declare that he will cut oil prices even though he is not authorized to set financial policy. That gave the impression to the Sudanese people that it is possible to cut prices. The military and ministerial councils were obliged to hold a joint meeting and cut gasoline prices by 75 piasters, which caused the treasury to lose 150 million pounds. It did not result in the decrease of living expenses, because it was a wrong decision issued by the wrong minister.

Cabinet Reaction Issued

GF240544 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Dec (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers today issued an official reaction to the interview published in the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* with 'Awad 'Abd al-Majid, former finance and economic planning minister on [word indistinct] on his resignation, which the council accepted (?yesterday). While admitting the poor economic situation in the country and its effects on the citizens, the council stressed that the style of the transitional government was based on tackling the crises and extricating the country from the social and economic [word indistinct]. This was founded on a unanimity of positions and [word indistinct] from the individual economic view, particularly when dealing in fateful issues. While the style of the finance minister was distinguished with economic [words indistinct] in performing his duties [word indistinct] the clear economic policies and the programs to execute them. Thus the assisting bodies, such as the economic, advisory, and ministerial committees, in addition to other experts, because of incongruous recommendations, were unable to adopt or reject a decision unless it stemmed from [word indistinct] discernment of issues of extreme [word indistinct] in addition to issuing of pamphlets and orders in major economic matters without coordination or agreement with the Council of Ministers.

SPLA Radio Notes Attack on Government Troops

EA241726 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] A series of shellings of the government army garrison at Yirol by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army — FBIS] forces of Shark Battalion under the command of Major Bona Abang Dhol is reported to have resulted in the death of 8 enemy soldiers, the wounding of 7 and the complete destruction of vital enemy installations.

Radio SPLA correspondent with Shark Battalion has said that enemy locations came under heavy SPLA bombardment on 18th December 1985 and 20th December 1985 respectively.

Eight enemy dwellings have been burnt to the ground, in addition to the officers club. Our correspondent added that the most serious damage suffered by Siwar al-Dhahab's forces has been the destruction of their food store. This, our correspondent said, has made the food situation so critical that the government soldiers have begun feeding on beans.

In another development, our correspondent has reported that the atmosphere in the military garrison has become extremely tense after 16 government soldiers from west and southern Sudan were disarmed on the orders of the garrison commander.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba May Act Against States With Israeli Ties

LD251538 Kuwait KUNA in English 1452 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Tunis, Dec 25 (KUNA) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba is contemplating diplomatic action to counter some African countries' restoration of ties with Israel, Tunisian sources told KUNA Wednesday.

Bourguiba discussed the issue in a meeting this morning with Premier Mohamed Mzali, Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Director of Presidential Affairs Minister Mansour Sakhiri, the sources said.

Most of African countries severed ties with Tel Aviv following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

However, the Ivory Coast this month restored relations with the Zionist state following suit of Zaire and Liberia which took the move earlier in the year.

Arab countries have recently voiced fear that yet other African countries would bow to Zionist pressures and restore diplomatic ties with Israel.

Earlier, this month Israel said at least four other African states would soon follow the example of the Ivory Coast.

Algerian Education Minister Ends Visit 24 Dec

LD241310 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Tunis, 24/12/85 (APS) — The Minister of Higher Teaching Abdelhak Berehi, ended on Monday a three-day-official visit in Tunisia at the invitation of his Tunisian counterpart Abdelazia Ben Dhia, by the signing of a proceedings with his Tunisian guest, which defines the great axes of cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia in the field of higher teaching and scientific research in the long medium and short terms.

During his stay, the minister of higher teaching attended the major part of the works of the 8th ALESCO [Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization] general conference due to end today. Before leaving Tunisia, Bererhi was to define, in a declaration, the broad lines of the Algero-Tunisian cooperation for the coming years, and which will be centered on the inter-university and teacher exchanges, the scholarships and the exchanges of students, the university works and publications.

The minsiter of higher teaching declared very optimistic [as received] as to prospects of this cooperation "which will constitute a new step toward the way of reinforcement and complementarity between the two countries" he stressed.

"This cooperation is to be exemplar, as far, as the international community is marked by a deep economic crisis and to face this state of fact, the third world countires in general, and Algeria and Tunisia in particular, are to join their efforts for the establishment of a real South-South cooperation, in default of a transfer of technology from the northern countries," Mr Bererhi added.

"Development of cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia, in the field of higher teaching and scientific research, proceeds from President Chadli Bendjedid's constant support to see to its full development, before the major interest that the political leadership devotes to the development of culture and knowledge in Algeria" he added.

KENYA

President Issues Statement on Uganda Fighting

EA241404 Nairobi KNA in English 1310 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] [No dateline as received] Press statement by HE the President Hon Daniel arap Moi, CGH, MP, issued at State House, Nakuru, today:

"Reports reaching me indicate that there are still cases of shooting and attacks in some fronts in Uganda. This is [words indistinct] to the Ugandan agreement entered into just a week ago. The people of Uganda have suffered untold misery for many years now and do, therefore, yearn for peace. I appeal to all the parties in Uganda to exercise restraint and caution and live to the spirit and letter of the agreement, particularly Article Three on cease-fire.

"It would be a great tragedy to hear of reports of intended attacks at this time when preparations are underway to implement the agreement. It is my prayer that all the leaders in Uganda will honour this agreement so that peace can return to Uganda".

UGANDA

Okello Appeals for Aid for Resettlement

EA241844 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council and head of state, General Tito Okello Lutwa, has called upon the international community to assist his government in implementing the peace agreement signed in Nairobi last week. About $300 million is needed to disarm and resettle the members of the various fighting forces in the country. The head of state disclosed this today when he was addressing diplomats and heads of missions in the country at the international conference center in Kampala. The general told them that some members of the teams invited to observe the implementation of the Nariobi peace accord have already arrived in the country and others will soon be arriving. He announced that Presidents arap Moi of Kenya and Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania had accepted invitations from him to visit Uganda and to address a joint meeting of the Military Council and the cabinet and a public rally.

Gen Okello once again reaffirmed government's commitment to the observance of human rights.

The meeting was also attended by the prime minister, Mr Abraham Waligo, and the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Olara Otunnu.

UK To Assist in Peace Accord, Military Aid

EA241432 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 24 Dec 85 p 20

[Excerpt] The British Government has agreed to assign a high ranking military officer, attached in their Nairobi High Commission, to Kampala to advise the government on implementation of the peace accord signed in Nairobi on 17th December. The appointee, Maj-Gen Pollard, assisted by a small staff including senior officers, will also give advise on any necessary training for a restructured Ugandan Army.

This was stated in a press statement by the British secretary of state, issued from the British High Commission in Nairobi yesterday. The statement disclosed that the UK was intending to provide Uganda with up to 5 million [currency unspecified] for the military purpose.

Foreign Minister Discusses Cease-Free Accord

MB231422 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 21 DEC 85

[From the "24 Hours" program]

[Text] In Uganda, the first tentative steps toward restoring political stability and economic prosperity are now being taken after this week's signing of the Nairobi peace accord. The most immediate problems are how to reshape and slim down the army whilst incorporating some of the National Resistance Army guerrillas, how to get rid of the former Amin soldiers, and monitor the cease-fire. Kenya, Tanzania, Britain, and Canada have been invited to send cease-fire observers [illegible] their response, a question (Cary Blackbone) puts to the [illegible] foreign minister, Olara Otunnu.

[Begin recording] [Otunnu] From Canada, we have not yet got any definite indication whether or not they can participate in this group. From the United Kingdom, we have got an indication that it will not be possible for them to participate in the Monitoring Observer Force, but the Government of the United Kingdom has kindly offered to help with the training of the new national army and for this we are very grateful. So, the two countries on which we are counting as of now to constitute the Monitoring Observer Force are Kenya and Tanzania.

[(Blackbone)] But are you really confident that the Tanzanians and the Kenyans will agree to help monitor the cease-fire because the Tanzanian Army, in particular, has run into great problems in Uganda in the past and surely it would be rather reluctant to come back again?

[Otunnu] Well, we have already had contacts informally with the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania and both Tanzania and Kenya have indicated their willingness to help with the Monitoring Observer Force.

[(Blackbone)] One of the main problems you are going to have to tackle is how to deal with the soldiers associated with the former President Idi Amin, because apparently they have been responsible for most of the shooting since the cease-fire was implemented. Don't you think that these people are your main threat now because they seem to be disillusioned, they haven't sufficient representation on the new government?

[Otunnu] I could not say for certain who has been responsible for the shooting and I would also not say that the shooting at night,

shooting in the air mainly, is an indication of the disposition of soldiers toward the agreement, I think this would be misleading. It took a lot of debate within the government itself. At the end of the day, both the military council and the Cabinet agreed to go along with the terms of the agreement for the sake of peace. So, everybody is on board as far as that is concerned.

[(Blackbone)] But there have, for example, been reports, certainly appearing in the British press, of possible plots of coup attempts by these two groups associated with former President Idi Amin.

[Otunnu] Oh, that is utter nonsense. I mean these speculations have been in the air for months. These are really spectulations which are fanned by people who wish to cause confusion and plunge the country again into further bloodshed. [end recording]

Otunnu Says Museveni Welcome in Kampala
EA241530 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English
24 Dec 85 p1

[Report by John Gachie on Ugandan foreign minister's Nairobi press conference headlined: "Moi is Invited to Address Ugandans"]

[Excerpt] On the whereabouts of Mr Yoweri Museveni and when he is expected in Kampala, Mr. Otunnu said: "On the day the peace agreement was signed he left Nairobi for an unnamed destination, but we are in touch with the NRA [National Resistance Army] people in Nairobi and he is welcome in Kampala any time".

Questioned on what Military Council and Cabinet Presidents Moi and Mwinyi will address in Kampala, Mr. Otunnu said: A 'fully constituted Military Council including Museveni and the NRM [National Resistance Movement] component." He also said that an "ad hoc committe" as per the agreement, to make practical agreements for the convening of the first joint Military Council, has been in operation.

Turning to the situation in Uganda itself, the foreign minister said: "The entire people of Uganda have welcomed the peace accord very enthusiastically," adding that "Gen Tito Okello has taken time to explain to the people of Uganda why it was necessary to sign the peace accord by holding public rallies in Kampala, Jinja, Nbale, Tororo and Iganga and will continue with the same programme after Christmas."

Commerce Minister Meets Soviet Trade Official
EA241427 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The minister of commerce, Mr Ignatius Malinga, has held talks with the commercial counsellor in the Soviet Embassy in Uganda, Mr (Sergey Vokalich). They discussed ways and means of increasing trade between Uganda and the Soviet Union. They also discussed the need for Uganda companies and parastatals to import Soviet goods direct from the Soviet Union instead of reimporting them from other countries.

CHAD

Delegations Return From Gabon; Habre, Djogo Comment

AB251245 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpts] As you know, the main news since yesterday has been the signing of the peace agreement between the Third Republic government and the Chadian Democratic Front [FDT]. In fact, the FDT delegation led by General Negue Djogo [name as heard], and that of the government led by Gouara Lassou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived at the Ndjamena International Airport this afternoon. The atmosphere which prevailed at their arrival was extraordinary because people who had long been apart met one another again. After warm embraces, greetings, and a short rest at the VIP lounge of the international airport of the capital, the members of the two delegations were then received by President Hissein Habre along with the Gabonese delegation led by Leon Augur, permanent general delegate to the founding general secretary of the Gabonese Democratic Party. All the Gabonese media organs were also present, that is radio, television, and printed press. But let us come to what was said at the presidency of the republic after the warm reception accorded the delegations at Ndjamena airport.

I cannot exactly express what I feel at meeting again the FDT brothers, President Hissein Habre said with emotion in the VIP lounge of the presidency of the republic, in the presence of many people including the Gabonese head of state's representative, Chadian top officials, and members of the Gabonese and national media. Now, listen to the head of state:

[Begin recording] [Habre] Messrs representatives of the president of the Republic of Gabon, dear brothers, I cannot exactly express what I feel in my heart at this moment following the signing in Libreville of the agreement between the FDT and the Chadian Government delegations and which enables us to meet one another again today here in Ndjamena. I can say that what I feel is exactly what all Chadians, relatives, brothers and sisters feel, that is a feeling of happiness. I can also say that the agreement signed in Libreville yesterday, the one signed between the Action Coordination Committee-Revolutionary Democratic Council [CAC-CDR] and the government, and those signed between the government and the Codos, CDR, and First Army groupings, constitute a series of extremely important facts in the path of our common efforts toward national salvation and the reconstruction of Chad. To our FDT brothers, I would say that through this agreement we have just turned over a page and opened a new one because it represents for us a pledge to forget about all that has opposed and divided us. We hope that this new page will enable all of us — together in fraternity, confidence, and understanding — to face the considerable problems confronting our country and achieve peace which we want so much, total stability, and unity thanks to which the Chadian people can devote themselves to the construction of our country for their own good. Once again, it is in fraternity and confidence that we will implement the agreement we signed, as well as the one we recently signed with the CAC-CDR, both of them representing an entity. On this occasion, I sincerely hope that the other opposition brothers will emulate our example so that we can bring all the Chadians together to work toward national reconstruction. I would also like to take this opportunity to say how much the Chadian people are satisfied with the agreement we have just signed, and on their behalf, I express our warm congratulations and our sincere gratitude to President El Hadj Omar Bongo, to his government, and to the Gabonese Democratic Party for helping the two delegations in reaching this important agreement. [end recording]

Like the head of state, Gen Negue Djogo sincerely thanked the Gabonese Government and people which, through the permanent readiness of President Omar Bongo, helped the Chadians hold discussions in a serene atmosphere and reach the present agreement. For the FDT, Gen Djogo added, a new page of relations between the movement and the Chadian Government is opened.

[Begin Djogo recording] I really (?appreciate) President Hissein Habre's words and it is on behalf of all my Chadian brothers and sisters that I thank him. As far as the FDT militants are concerned, they know that they must forget about the past, unite their efforts, and put an end to a situation which has only contributed to the destruction of our dear country. It is together that we will put an end to the partition of our country for good, and it is also together that we will fight against those who have annexed a part of our country. It is not only through words that we will condemn this annexation but by action. We want to help you in your effort to achieve peace and reconstruct Chad. On the occasion of our return home and with your permission, I would like to launch an appeal to our brothers still outside the national territory to unite in order to save Chad and restore peace in the country. To those in arms and those who are not, I reiterate the appeal that I launched to them in Libreville. [end recording]

GUNT Issues Statement

AB241925 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 24 Dec 85

["Press communique" issued by the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) in Bardai on 23 December 1985 — read by announcer]

[Text] The GUNT, which is currently meeting in Bardai, has learned of the news that Djibril Djogo and his accomplices have joined the Ndjamena goup. While taking note of this spectacular defection of [words indistinct], the GUNT wishes to make three major observations:

1. This act of allegiance to imperialism shows officially the reunion between the agents in the pay of [words indistinct] of the French neocolonialism. It shows clearly to the whole world those traitors who infiltrated into the ranks of the patriotic forces.

2. The action of the reactionary clique of Djibril Djogo once again illustrates the pursuit of the national recuperation policy [politique de recuperation nationale] being dictated to the Ndjamena group by its French masters.

3. Persisting in this policy in conformity with the French-FAN strategy is a serious handicap for the process of global reconciliation under the auspices of the pan-African organization.

Thus, while reaffirming its preparedness for a true national reconciliation in Chad, the GUNT calls for the vigilance of OAU member-states in the face of these acts of recuperation aimed at covering the serious threats which the French-FAN military preparations pose to the future of peace in Chad.

Issued in Bardai on 23 December

[Signed] The Transitional National Union Government

Djogo, Lassou View Accord

AB241737 Libreville Africa No.1 in French
1230 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] It is today that the Chadian Government and Chadian Democratic Front [FDT] delegations will present the agreement they signed in Libreville yesterday to President Hissein Habre. The two delegations, which are accompanied by that of the Gabonese Government, left Libreville this morning to this effect after 1 month of negotiaitons in the Gabonese capital. These negotiations took place under the chairmanship of the Gabonese head of state, President Omar Bongo, who commended the Chadians for willingly working to bring peace in their country. After the signing of the agreement, Djibril Djogo, the FDT leader, and the foreign affairs minister, Gouara Lassou, disclosed their impressions to John Joseph Nbourou. Listen to Mr Djogo.

[Begin recording] We have reached satisfactory conclusions not only for the two delegations — the FDT and government delegations — but also for the Chadian people and this is what is significant. This agreement is a positive step toward total national reconciliation, let us say one of the important steps.

[Nbourou] A positive step which comes after a first one, that is the signing of the agreement between the government and the Action Coordination Committee-Revolutionary Democratic Council [CAC-CDR]. Do you have an appeal to launch to the other Chadian forces?

[Djogo] All that I can do now from the Gabonese territory is to call on all my brothers in arms and those who are not in arms in the opposition to emulate what we have just done and join the Chadian family because there is a threat more important than what we can fear within ourselves. This threat concerns the partition and the annexation of our country. The threat is so serious that the efforts of all the Chadians are needed to fight back this aggression so that Chad can regain its unity and its independence. [end recording]

As for Gouara Lassou, he expressed satisfaction with the peace agreement signed between Ndjamena and the FDT. Listen to the Chadian minister of foreign affairs.

[Begin Lassou recording] The agreement is a beautiful Christmas gift for our people. Chad's children must unite because we have a huge task to perform together, that is the reconstruction task of our country. We have wasted too much time. Now we have to work sincerely and hard. We must start the only true war, that is the war against misery, hunger, and underdevelopment and we believe that we will win that war. [end recording]

ZAIRE

44 Cubans Freed, Handed Over to Angolan Official

AB241245 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French
1130 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The 44 Cubans who were arrested at the beginning of the month in Bandundu Province were freed yesterday in Kinshasa, upon personal orders from Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, MPR founding chairman and president of the republic. These militants were officially handed over to the Angolan vice minister of external relations, Venancio de Silva Moura, by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Citizen Bikingi Embeyolo. This was at a ceremony held at the Green Room of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

According to Citizen Bikingi, Zaire's act is proof of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko's desire to preserve the good relations existing between Kinshasa and Luanda. As for the Angolan vice minister of external relations, the landing of the plane carrying the 44 Cubans on Zairian territory should not be considered as an act of provocation. It was a mere accident without any afterthoughts, he added. The vice minister, who was very touched, thanked Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko for his understanding. According to Venancio de Moura, Angolan vice minister for external relations, the MPR founding chairman has just proved by this action that he is a true African head of state.

Soon after this ceremony, the 44 Cubans were sent to the Ndjili airport where they boarded a Tupolev plane of the People's Republic of Angola in the company of the Angolan vice minister of external relations. From the Green Room, the Cuban ambassador made it a point to personally witness the departure of his fellow citizens with whom he had earlier held talks.

The Angolan vice minister was received yesterday by the MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic. He bore a personal message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Venancio de Moura, after holding talks with Marshal Mobutu Seko, said the Angolan plane entered Zairian territory for technical reasons.

ALGERIA

Algeria to Send Foreign Minister to Mali, Burkina

AB242041 Paris AFP in French 1839 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Algiers, 24 Dec (AFP) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has decided to send his foreign affairs minister, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, as a special envoy to Presidents General Moussa Traore of Mali and Captain Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso, whose countries are faced with a border dispute, official sources disclosed today in Algiers.

"On the eve" of his departure, the Algerian foreign affairs minister was received by Mr Bendjedid who charged him with messages to be delivered to the two heads of state. No disclosures were made about the contents of the messages, but according to observers, the messages concerned the recent border incidents that occurred between the two countries with which Algeria maintains excellent relations.

BENIN

Government Urges Dialogue Between Mali, Burkina Faso

AB261150 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Communique on Mali-Burkina Faso border conflict; date not given — read by announcer]

[Text] Following persistent reports that Burkinabe and Malian troops are attacking each other in the disputed area at their common border, the Beninese people, their vanguard party, and their revolutionary state which is led by our great comrade in arms, President Mathieu Kerekou, in the line of the consolidation of African unity and solidarity, make a fraternal appeal to the Malian and Burkinabe peoples to try to overcome their problem under the guidance of their respective leadership through dialogue, which is very dear to the people of Africa. On this Christmas day, which symbolizes the hope of humanity for a world of peace and fraternity, the militant people of the the People's Republic of Benin, deeply hope that tolerance and moderation will prevail in the hearts of Malians and Burkinabe, in order that, under the guidance of their eminent leaders, Presidents Moussa Traore and Thomas Sankara, the two brotherly and friendly peoples of Mali and Burkina Faso will continue to show trust and international confidence in justice, which is embodied in the International Court of the Hague. United in African solidarity and fraternity, the Malian and Burkinabe people will triumph over all intrigues of international imperialism, so that underdevelopment, which is our common enemy, will be overcome through our concerted efforts.

Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

BURKINO FASO

Reportage on Border Fighting with Mali

Tunisian Message Delivered 23 Dec

AB232057 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, this afternoon received in audience Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs and special envoy of President Bourguiba. His Excellency, the Tunisian ambassador to Ivory Coast, was also present when the Tunisian diplomat told reporters about the purpose of his talk with the president of the republic:

[Begin Mestiri recording] In fact we have just been received by President Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso, and we delivered a message from President Bourguiba to him personally. It is not my duty to disclose the contents of this message. President Bourguiba appreciates efforts being made by President Sankara to unite the African peoples as well as current initiatives by Burkina Faso to bring African countries of our region together. President Bourguiba expressed to him his sentiments of true solidarity and brotherliness. Also in the message, President Bourguiba [words indistinct] the personality of the president of Burkina Faso and to this end, to the revolution of this brotherly African country.

Inter-African Delegation to Border

AB241025 Paris AFP in French 0733 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Paris, 24 Dec (AFP) — A delegation comprising representatives from Niger, Togo, and Algeria, will go to the area of conflict between Burkina Faso and Mali on Thursday, it was announced Monday night in Paris by the Burkinabe charge d'affaires, Amedo Pitroipa. Mr Pitroipa told AFP that the delegation will be joined in the field by the secretary general of the ANAD (Non-Agression and Defense Aid Agreement).

Meanwhile, in Ouagadougou, Basile Guisso, Burkinabe external relations and cooperation minister, has stated that such a mission "no longer has its raison d'etre," since the Malian authorities have admitted, according to him, that the Burkinabe Army has left the disputed zone.

The ownership of this border area to Burkina Faso is contested by Mali, which claims to have repulsed Burkinabe soldiers from the area. According to Ouagadougou authorities, the soldiers they sent to the extreme north of the country to ensure the smooth running of the population census excercise, voluntarily withdrew from the area.

"The villages being contested by Mali appear on all the maps of Burkina Faso," Mr Pitroipha stressed, noting, however, that the Ouagadougou authorities would comply with decisions made by the International Court of Justice at The Hague which is handling the case.

"It is right now a campaign of denigration and false attacks against our country," he said, stating that the Burkinabe authorities refuse "to follow (the Malians) in a hysterical and hateful agitation, which only aims at diverting the two peoples' attention from the solution of their problem of survival."

"Burkina Faso," the charge d'affaires stated, "has shown since the advent of the revolution (and the coming into power of Captain Thomas Sankara) that it is in favor of a just and final solution by not opposing Mali's entry into the UMOA (West African Monetary Union) and by bringing the case before the Court of Justice, in spite of delays."

He also stated that "the Burkinabe soldiers were irritated by this (Malian) agitation, but the head of state decided to tell Mali to be calm."

Sankara Receives ICO Message

AB241607 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] We are beginning this newscast with a message which we have just received — a message addressed to his excellency Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and president of Burkina Faso:

I have followed with much sadness the regrettable incidents that occurred at the border between Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali — incidents which, thanks to God, have been quickly brought under control. While I pay tribute to Your Excellency for the wisdom you have shown during this difficult time, I hope that reason will continue to prevail and that finally, the spirit of good-neighborliness and the willingness to consolidate regional cooperation will inspire your two countries toward the peaceful and equitable settlement of the dispute.

Also, as the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], of which Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali are members, I am totally ready to contribute to any initiative that your Excllency will judge necessary to take toward a just and lasting settlement of the issue.

I beseech Your Excellency the president to accept my highest regards.

Signed: Siad Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization

Attack Announced, Mobilization Call

AB251345 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1326 GMT 25 Dec 85

["Statement" issued by the National Council of the Revolution in Ouagadougou on 25 December — read by Lieutenant Daouda Traore]

[Text] Since the beginning of the population census exercise, militants of the democratic and popular revolution have been informed about the difficulties encountered in carrying out this exercise. These difficulties are manifestly brought about by the provocation of the Malian authorities at our borders, especially at the locality of Diounouga.

The National Council of the Revolution [CNR], concerned with preserving peace between our respective peoples, and at the request of some heads of state, has constantly worked toward calming down rising tension. To this end, it ordered all units of our valiant people's army to return to barracks. This withdrawal was to have been ascertained by an inter-African mission on Thursday, 26 December 1985.

But today, 25 December, a holiday, and taking advantage of the withdrawal of our troops and of this clearly manifested will for peace, and at a time when the Algerian delegation has arrived, the Malian Army has shamelessly launched an air attack on the peaceful civilian people of Djibo, Nassoumbou, and Ouahigouya, while a military detachment attacked those of Diounouga. These acts of barbarism and cowardice, unworthy of mankind, which affected a dispensary and cereal depots of the National Grain Board, left 4 persons dead and 11 others wounded, all of them civilians, according to first information received.

The CNR reiterates its confidence in all good will shown for the peaceful solution to this dispute and its adherence to all the instruments drawn up by the people to preserve universal peace, especially the OAU and UN charters. However, conscious of the urgent need to defend our fatherland and our revolution, and to ensure the security of innocent people, the CNR calls for the total mobilization of all the nation's forces, of all military and paramilitary units, and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

The fatherland or death, we will win!

'Severe Thrashing' of Malian Troops

AB251542 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1514 GMT 25 Dec 85

["Communique" from the National Council of the Revolution in Ouagadougou on 25 December — read by Lieutenant Daouda Traore]

[Text] Ignoring the good offices mission of many heads of state and the sense of wisdom of the Burkinabe people, the puppet authorities of Bamako, in all cowardice lauched forces of aggression and treachery on the innocent civilians of Djibo, Ouahigouya, Nassoumbo and Diounouga, thus forcing us to defend ourselves and engaging us in a war that we have always wanted to avoid.

Our valiant people's army, firmly responding to the Malian aggression, and resolutely determined to block the way to any attempts to penetrate our territory, has inflicted a severe thrashing onthe troops of the aggression, thus destroying 6 Malian tanks and killing 10 soldiers and leaving many wounded. According to the latest information received, our revolutionary people's force did not suffer any casualties.

What are the Bamako authorities going to tell bereaved families of these innocent Malian victims? In any case, nothing can let them forget the death of their children, especially when they learn know that in reality this war is the means by which two neighboring countries, including Mali, controlled by a force from outside Africa, is attempting to introduce some stateless people they have organized, armed, and trained to stop the forward march of our people.

The Burkinabe people, with the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] at their head, will be able to foil the political and military maneuvers of destabilization of our revolution. Our valiant people's defense force, educated in the revolutionary conscience of intransigent defense of our fatherland and our revolution, anxious to preserve the territorial integrity of Burkina Faso, will be able to inflict the appropriate response to any impertinent warmongering wherever it might come, convinced that the victory of the Burkinabe revolutionary forces is the victory of all struggling people.

The fatherland or death, we will win!

Nurses Requested to Report

AB251706 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1654 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Announcement by station announcer]

[Text] Comrade Drabo Moussa is urgently requested to come to the radio station for duty.

The following comrade nurses are requesed to report immediately to the [name indistinct] hospital for duty: They are Traore (Vincent); Traore Claude, Ouedraogo Guessnaba, Ouedraogo Cheick Yussouf, Traore (Malick Djansou), Batia Phillipe, Sawadogo Karim, and Nassiri Iddrissa.

'External Forces' on Malian Side

AB251744 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in English 1727 GMT 25 Dec 85

["News in English"]

[Text] Hello comrades, dear listeners, merry Christmas first. Dear countrymen, all the revolutionary people of Burkina Faso: The war has come. It is sad, but it is true. The wind of war is now blowing over the Burkinabe and the Malian border. So you are all asked to stand up wherever you are to defend our motherland.

In fact, early this morning, December 25, 1985, while the peaceful people of Burkina Faso were celebrating Christmas day, the Malian Army waged an air attack on Djibo, Soum Province, and Nassoungou, a village in the same province, and on Ouahigouya, the Yatenga Province. At the same time, the ground force was attacking another village, Nioumcunga, in the same province, destroying a pharmaceutical store and a food store. About 4 people, all civilians were killed and 11 others wounded, first official information said.

Since the National Revolution Council [as heard] came into power on August 4, 1983, it actively undertook by all means the search for peaceful understanding and friendship between our country and all the neighboring states. Comrade Thomas Sankara, president of the National Revolution Council [NCR] and president of Faso's [as heard] first visit took him to Mali. Then many actions have been made since then to prove to the Malian authorities that the NCR and the Burkinabe people want peace and understanding between them and neighboring states.

But since December 14, on the occasion of the general census of the population, the Malian state police hampered the operation. From then on the Malian authorities have told offensive lies against the Burkinabe authorities. So far, the Burkinabe Government was still searching for ways and means to avoid military intervention between the two sister countries which could be an opportunity for our enemies to do us harm. Anyway, we know that some external forces are taking part in the attack against the Burkinabe people.

Acting in self-defense, the Burkinabe authorities have mobilized all the forces — military and paramilitary as well as CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] — to stand for our action of self-defense. So, we are now sure that Mali is not in for peace, but wants to oblige us in a war. But revolution does not mean destruction; revolution means construction. Yet, we fear no war when fought for a noble reason and a just cause. That's why we reaffirm our readiness to repel the enemies out of our territory. That spirit of self-defense led our soldiers to counterstroke.

According to the latest communique concerning the situation, the Burkinabe soldiers have destroyed eight Malian tanks, killed nine people and wounded many others. As the national slogan goes, motherland or death, we shall overcome. And we surely will overcome.

2 Tanks Seized, 6 Destroyed

AB251821 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] In the Malian-Burkinabe conflict, our People's Defense Forces have just given an severe thrashing to the elements of the Malian army. As a result, two Malian tanks have been seized by our People's Defense Forces. In all, since the morning, six Malian tanks have been destroyed and two seized while 10 Malian soliders were killed by our People's Defense Forces.

Communique on Fighting

AB251826 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1735 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Communique issued by the National Council of the Revolution, [CNR] on 25 December in Ouagadougou]

[Text] After having attacked the civilian population in a cowardly manner, and after having suffered (?heavy losses) in an unsuccessful attack on certain civilian targets, including the Djibo

water tower, the Malian forces have been totally put to flight.

In addition to the destructive action already announced, our People's Revolutionary Forces, two of whom have been wounded, have just seized two Malian tanks at Niounounga. These tanks seized from the enemies are now being used to annihilate them and ban them from ever setting foot on our territory.

So, in the face of the agitation and hysteria of the puppet forces, the Burkinabe people and their People's Defense Force are now displaying their cool strength which is the strong part of the revolutionaries.

The fatherland or death, we will win!

'European Power' Providing Mali Materiel

AB251836 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1810 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Statement from the National Secretariat General of the committees for the defense of the revolution read by Second Lieutenant Cisse Moussa — live]

[Text] Comrades and militants of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution: Since this morning, international imperialism through the instrumentality of its beloved children in Bamako, has imposed war on us by attacking our peaceful civilian populations. Moussa Traore's rotten clique — the sworn enemy of the Malian and Burkinabe peoples — has thus executed an order given by its imperialist masters.

In fact, for 3 days now, an European imperialist power has been off-loading war materiel and so-called instructors in Mali. This is being used to attack our people and to maintain the Malian people under the reign of the unpopular Moussa Traore. This is why all militants and patriots must mobilize themselves for the people's war. By relying on our own strength and like the glorious peoples who foiled imperialist war machines all over the world, we must organize ourselves and fight on all fronts in order to defend the fatherland and the revolution.

Since the historic night of 4 August 1983, we have sworn to win or to die. This means that we have chosen struggle and sacrifice. Faithful to this oath, our troops have been fighting since dawn and have been inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and sowing disarray within his ranks. Following their example, the militarily trained committees for the defense of the revolution have mobilized themselves since this morning in order to execute all tasks of security that may be entrusted to them. All remaining people must consider themselves mobilized and ready for any sacrifices needed for the total annihilation of the forces of the clique of Moussa Traore whose existence constitutes a danger for the Malian and Burkinabe peoples.

It is no longer a question of territorial claim but of a direct and open clash between retrograde forces and progress, between reaction and revolution. This is why the neocolonial instrument represented by Moussa Traore's regime has the support of its colonialist and neocolonialist masters. History will give us the opportunity to say and to demonstrate that we have no grudge against the brotherly people of Mali who inherited a long tradition of glorious struggle when they were guided by a progressive orientation before the advent of Moussa Traore's puppet-regime. Death to the enemies of the Malian and Burkinabe peoples!

Malian Communique 'Deceitful'

AB251917 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Let us restore the truth. Contrary to the deceitful communiques issued by the Malian Armed forces, this morning's air raid was carried out gainst Burkinabe localities outside the areas under dispute. These are Djibo located at 350 km north of Ouagadougou and about 50 km from the Mali-Burkinabe border, and Ouahigouya, located at 185 km from Ouagadougou. Also, a Malian army unit attacked Nassoungou at the same time.

Radio Personnel Called to Duty

AB252101 Bobo Dioulasso Domestic Service in French 1717 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The comrade members of the management board of Radio Bobo and the chiefs of the transmission centers are urgently requested toreport to the Radio House for duty. They are Raymond Edouard Ouedraogo, station director; Frederic Traore, chief of the transmission center; Bazinema Bakoua, Committee for the Defense of the Revolution delegate of the cultural services; Charles Antoine Bambara, acting chief of the information services; Francois Daga, chief of the technical services; Casimir Hieng, chief of the programming services. Treachery and felony will not succeed. The fatherland or death, we will win!

Request Outside Lights Be Extinguished

AB252240 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2226 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Announcement read by unidentified station announcer]

[Text] All subscribers to the Burkinabe National Electricity Corporation [Sonabel] — domestic, industrial and commercial, administrative, — are requested to immediately turn off the external lights of their buildings. This directive should be observed throughout the country. Sonabel technicians should make sure that all the public lighting system are turned off.

All section Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and all militants of the Democratic and Popular Revolution are required to see to the effective implementation of this directive until further notice. The fatherland or death, we will win!

Algerian Foreign Minister Received

LD261058 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Ouagadougou, 26/12/85 (APS) — Foreign minister and President Chadli's special envoy, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, was received yesterday by Burkinabe President Thomas Sankara. Dr.

Ibrahimi gave President Sankara a message from the head of state.

Niounouga Said Retaken

AB261135 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1003 GMT 26 Dec 85

["War Communique No.3" of the National Council of the Revolution; read by Comrade Lieutenant Daouda Traore]

[Text] War Communique No.3 of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]: In response to the good will mission of certain heads of state who — after a discussion with Malian President Moussa Traore — pleaded with the comrade president of Burkina Faso for the establishment of a cease-fire at 1800 on 25 December, Burkina Faso gave its consent and respected its committments. This was another proof of the wisdom and good will which have always characterized the CNR in the solution of African problems. But once again, President Moussa Traore has betrayed his promise just as he had done in a cowardly manner after having deceitfully obtained an agreement of withdrawal of Burkinabe forces and the control of an inter-African mission. [sentence as heard] Malian forces of aggression thus violated the cease-fire by attacking the people's defense forces who gallantly reacted for the honor and dignity of Burkina Faso. Thus the locality of Niounouga, which had been occupied by the enemy in a cowardly manner following our withdrawal, was the theater of fierce fighting which was crowned by the victory of the Burkinabe forces. After launching an assault against Niounouga, they recaptured it and freed it completely of all enemy presence. In the Soum sector, when — after violating the cease-fire at about 1830 — some Malian tanks attacked the people's defense forces, they suffered a crushing defeat in a commando ambush.

The Malian authorities have been deceiving the Malian people by pretending that none of their soldiers have been killed whereas they have been evacuating wounded persons, burying the dead in haste, or abandoning on the battlefield the already rotting bodies they could not carry away. Even though it was not possible to determine the exact number of enemy soldiers killed, our troops have — in a clear, indisputable and therefore easily verifiable manner — captured Malian prisoners. The heroism of our troops on all these war theaters is plainly characterized by revolutionary courage, committment, and determination. There was the example of gallantry of about 20 soldiers who, for 1 and 1/2 hours, resisted the assault of 15 Malian tanks. It was during this fierce fighting that a comrade — the sergeant-major of the 2d (?Battalion) — threw himself upon a moving tank in order to put a grenade through the turret. Our determination is making it possible for us to have the upper hand on all fronts. The fatherland or death, we will win!

'Fierce Fighting' 26 Dec

AB261212 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Mali and Burkina Faso: According to the latest news in our possession, fierce fighting is going on at the border. Thus, the locality of Niounouga, which had been occupied in a cowardly manner by the enemy following our withdrawal, has been the theater of fierce fighting which was crowned by the victory of the Burkinabe Armed Forces.

Airspace Closed

AB261328 Paris AFP in French 1215 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Paris, 26 Dec (AFP) — The Ouagadougou airport has been closed and flight in Burkina airspace is forbidden, it was confirmed by UTA airline in Paris on Thursday. These two measures were taken on Wednesday, the source indicates, following the conflict which has erupted between Mali and Burkina Faso on four border villages in the region of Agacher at the northeastern part of Burkina Faso, the object of a 30-year-old litigation between the two countries.

Commentaries View Border Issue, Clashes

24 Dec Commentary on Border Issue

AB241820 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Within the framework of the situation at the border between Mali and Burkina Faso, an inter-African commission will visit the border to see the reality of things over there. Here is a commentary by Serge-Theophile Valima. The confused situation which has been reigning since yesterday in Bamako is nothing less than the consequence of the gross lies which we reported on this very radio. According to the lies, the Malian troops allegedly pushed back the supposed aggressors at the disputed border area. This falsehood uttered by Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the Executive Bureau of the Democratic Union of Malian People, in the presence of few hundred people assembled for the occasion has unmasked itself with the recent declaration of another top Malian politician, General Baba Diarra, the second personality in the Bamako regime. Addressing the Malian Women's Union at a meeting yesterday, he asserted and I quote: "The Burkinabe troops still occupy the same positions in the disputed border area. An ultimatum has been issued asking the Burkinabe troops to return to their base. Unfortunately, at this very moment as I talk to you, the Burkinabe troops are still maintaining their positions." Unquote.

In this confusion of utterances fabracated by chance, from the excitement and panic which got hold of some elements of the Malian leadership, we no longer know what the regime wants. Has Djibril Diallo told lies by asserting that the Malian army has done its duty? On what did Gen Baba Diarra base his argument to say that the Burkinabe Army still occupies the same positions? Evidently, our army cannot be pushed back and at the same time occupy the same positions. Obviously, there are two politicians, two speeches, and two strategies that demonstrates uneasiness within the leadership which is divided between the devil and the deep blue sea, between lies and hell — two aspects of the same ill-guided reality.

At the height of the panic, a few days ago, false reports spoke of an imminent attack by Bamako on the revolutionary air force base of Burkina Faso. In this jungle of passions which broke loose

on the state leadership in Bamako, neither shame nor childish contradictions, nor even the merciless verdict of history can stop the politicians who are doomed not to have any word of honor to renew the interests of their people. If, in the free land of Burkina Faso, ridicule kills, elsewhere, alas, it is part of the political process. However, the international press has greatly echoed this contradiction within the Malian leadership. As for some of Mali's friends, they are today clearly embarrassed by these chance utterances which have no bearing on the realities existing at the border area.

A delegation of representatives from Niger, Togo, Algeria, and the secretary general of the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement] will visit the border zone on Thursday in order to see for itself the realities in the field. Once again, it will bring great shame on the authorities in Bamako, because the inter-African delegation will only see what is really existing there. If this on-the-spot visit however, can bring the Malian authorities to reason, it will be to the advantage of both of our peoples.

Commentary Views Clash

AB251942 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Serge Coulibaly commentary]

[Text] After the obstinancy of the Malian a. orities to shed the blood of our two peoples, the time has come .or an outburst of nationalism. In the face of our patience and our peaceful spirit, the Bamako regime, assisted by external forces, has carried out a cowardly air raid against civilian population of our northern localities at a time when the inter-African delegation was about to start an inspection tour of the field to confirm the withdrawal of the Burkinabe troops.

Anticipating imminent disavowal and shame, Moussa Traore's government preferred to bring about a situation that will make it impossible for honest mediators to make out the lies contained in its allegations. This subterfuge is both bloody and suicidal on the part of the Malian authorities because very soon the whole world will bear witness to their criminal initiative in launching the war. Through the bloody episodes that will mark the war situation between the two countries, the Moussa Traore regime thinks it can do away with the Burkinabe revolution by throwing its people to the devil.

The reactions of the senile regime of Mali, which has been driven into a tight corner on the domestic front by workers who are not paid or who are paid according to the Malian month — which lasts 60 days — are only superficial ones. Unable to cope — on its left and on its right — with a youth which is becoming more and more aware of its responsibilities, the ruling team of Moussa Traore, on the spur of the moment issues mobilization slogans that are unfortunately void of any meaning: Mali or shame — this is what one can hear people shout on the Malian radio.

What a queer slogan! It translates the phoniness of the political analysis of the Bamako regime. Mali in shame, or shame in Mali — this is the balance sheet of the year of a regime during which an unscrupulous state machinery was set up to the detriment of the Malian masses. Scandalous embezzlement and diversion of food aid destined to the Sahel drought-affected population has engendered in that country a well-known social phenomenon: The milliondougou and the sorghodougou [villages of millionaires and villages of sorghum]

Today, the victims of this exploitation are being sent to death at the front for the very persons who shamelessly, and with impunity, starved the drought-affected population. Such practices have been frequently condemned by European and other media which cannot be accused of conniving with the Burkinabe revolution. These are the kinds of unpopular actions that have isolated the leaders of the UDPM [Democratic Union of Malian People] — demogogical Union of the Malian Party.

This is why support marches have been commandeered by paying huge amounts of CFA — yes, CFA — in order to show another image different from that of an out-of-breath regime. Ouagadougou has taken notice of the thoughtless machinations of the old-fashioned leaders and will assume its responsibilities in the face of this odious war started unilaterally by a mafia infiltrated into the helm of the Malian regime. This mafia is maintained and used by forces from outside Mali which want to capitalize on such armed clashes.

This situation has been made possible by the political immaturity of the generals who have been worn out by their lax practices and all sorts of short-cuts resulting from their propensity towards corruption and submissiveness. In launching this offensive against the Burkinabe people, the chiefs of the Malian Army have made the fatal step, a step which could become an abyss for the Malian leaders in any case.

25 Dec Comment

AB251643 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Comment by unidentified station announcer]

[Text]0 Our programs will continue until 1800 GMT when we will hand over to another team. What we should remember, militants of the Democratic Union Malian People [UDPM], is that our country, Mali is a peace-loving country. We shall move ahead and progress because we respect the OAU; we love Africa; we love the African people. We have never looked for war, but as General Amadou Baba Diarra [deputy secretary general of the UDPM] said on behalf of General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM, we will never tolerate a portion of our country to be illegally occupied. There are existing institutions to deal with some situations. If in Ouagadougou, some agitated minds have manifested themselves by misleading an under-informed people, we in Bamako think... we have already thought about the whole issue, and as good Malians, we have tried to cooperate and to understand. But as everything that has a beginning must have an end, and faithfulto our commitment to either die rather than to face shame, we will move ahead because the Ouagadougou authrorities do not want to understand anything. Our army, spurred on by the National Union of Malian Women, the Malian Youth Union, the National Union of Malian

Workers, should know that we are behind it for the safeguard of the territorial integrity of our country. Mali or shame, we are prepared for war!

26 Dec Radio Commentary
AB260920 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 26 Dec 85

["Burkina Column", life in Burkina, a look into the daily life]

[Excerpt] Comrades, you heard about it yesterday. Ouagadougou was going about its daily business. Burkina was living peacefully in spite of the bragging and the fallacious communiques of victory by some officials of the Malian political leadership which has steered the destiny of the descendants of the valiant Mandingo people in the line of misery and humiliation which are inflicted upon them daily by imperialism and its local lackeys [words indistinct] of Burkina Faso. It was in support of the stateless persons who have been sold to foreigners that Mali, on this Christmas day of peace and meditation, carried out the shameful attack on the peaceful civilian people of Djibo, Nassoungou, and Ouahigouya, leaving 4 people dead and 11 others wounded.

Burkina Faso, land of dignity and truth; Burkina Faso, home of the triumphant people and masses who are aware of their historic mission — the promotion of peace — could not look on unconcerned in the face of this felony by traitors to the cause of dialogue and African peace.

Reacting to measure up to the affront by Malian local agents of imperialism who have been rejected by their people, the people's army, aware and [word indistinct] of its good cause and the legitimacy of its mission, launched an attack against these agents, traitors to the cause of their people, destroying 2 tanks, capturing 2 others, and killing 10 victims which will always remain on the conscience of the aggressors. We said the day before yesterday that the Burkinabe people are brothers and friends of the Malian people, that our Malian brothers residing in Burkina are at home, and that nothing will happen to them in Burkina Faso, because the revolutionary government is in the service of the people, and not of exploiters of the people and starvers of the people. The rotten fraction of the Malian leadership's only interest in this aggression was to associate with reactionary and stateless forces in Burkina to launch, on this Christmas 1985, an attack against peace-loving people who are determined to work toward the restoration of a new Africa, which will be free because it is combatant.

Our entire population is henceforth mobilized within its revolutionary organizations. Our struggle is that of truth. Our struggle is that of hope for the whole of Africa, including the brotherly people of Mali, who are able to recognize their exploiters, and the clique of profiteers of its efforts. Our victory is sure, because the people are incincible.

Forward for our revolutionary leadership, the CNR [National Council of the Revolution]. Forward for all. Fatherland of death, we will win!

GHANA

Rawlings Meets With Bukina, Mali Ambassadors
AB261345 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Two members of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], P.V. Obeng, who is also chairman of the committee of secretaries, and Major General Arnold Quinoo, force commander, left Accra by air this morning for Bamako and Ouagadougou. They were seen off by the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Chairman Rawlings had earlier this morning met with the ambassador of Burkina Faso and the charge d'affaires of the Malian Embassy. Both meetings were behind closed doors. It is believed that the separate meetings with the envoys of the two countries and the departure of the PNDC members are closely related to the recent escalation of hostilities between the two countries.

MALI

Reportage on Border Fighting With Burkino Faso

Traore 24 Dec Message to Bendjedid
AB240945 Paris AFP in French 0737 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Algiers, 24 Dec (AFP) — Malian President Moussa Traore sent a message on Monday to Algerian head of state Chadli Bendjedid, it was learned from official sources in Algiers. This message was given to President Chadli by a special envoy sent by President Traore, Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the Democratic Union of Malian People (the only party in Mali), and minister of state in charge of industrial development and tourism.

No disclosure was made on the contents of this message, nor on the talks, but according to observers, the mission of the special Malian envoy may be linked to the border incident between Mali and Burkina Faso which took place on 14 December 1985 and was announced last Saturday by the radios of both countries.

Communique Issued on Fighting
AB251757 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1739 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Statement issued by the Central Executive Bureau [BEC] in Bamako on 25 December 1985 on the Mali-Burkina border conflict — read by announcer]

[Text] This morning, 25 December 1985, at 0700, our armed forces, desirous to preserve our territorial integrity, launched an armed counteroffensive [contre offensive armee] to drive out the Burkinabe invaders from the national territory. Since them, fighting has been going on normally [normalement] at the battle front. Our troops are marching toward victory. Operations of neutralization launched by our army were aimed at precise military targets situated, among other places, at Djibo, Ouahiagiaya and Nassoungou. The Malian villages were freed. No Malian soldier was killed and no tank was destroyed. Only

one Malian soldier was wounded during the fight to capture Niounounga. (?We are calling on) the people to remain calm and serene and to have confidence in their army which will not fail in its duty. The people must remain constantly mobilized and (?vigilant).

Workers Union Summoned

AB251546 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The Executive Bureau of the National Union of Malian Workers hereby summons all workers in the public, semi-public, and private sectors in Bamako, Kati, and their suburbs to a meeting tomorrow Thursday 26 December 1985 at the Labor Exchange Office at 1000. The meeting is to demonstrate their solidarity of the party and the government in the face of the border conflict between Burkina and Mali. The bureau counts on the militant spirit and the patriotism of each and everyone.

Traders Urged to Contribute

AB251853 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1840 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Statement issued by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mali in Bamako on 25 December 1985 -- read by announcer]

[Text] In compliance with decisions made during the general assembly held on Wednesday, 25 December 1985, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, traders within the district of Bamako are requested to pay in to Mr Ourmane Daho [words indistinct] their contributions to support the war. To this end, a commission charged with collecting the contributions will permanently sit at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Traore Receives Algerian Envoy

AB252252 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2230 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM [Democratic Union of Malian People], president of the republic and minister of defense, this afternoon received in audience a special emissary of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The emissary is the Algerian foreign minister, Taleb Ibrahimi who came from Ouagadougou. Their talks centered on the situation created by Burkina Faso at its border with Mali.

Central Executive Bureau Communique

AB252046 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 25 Dec 85

["Communique No. 2" issued by the Central Executive Bureau of the Democratic Union of Malian people on 25 December 1985 — read by announcer]

[Text] Mali has nothing against the brotherly people of Burkina Faso. Their happiness is that of the Malian people and their misfortune is also ours. Our two peoples, whose fates are indisputably bound, share the same economic concerns. But the misfortune of the Burkinabe people is that they are presently being ruled by thoughtless and misguided leaders. In fact, it is sheer thoughtlessness on the part of leaders of a country faced with underdevelopment to set their people on a bitter fratricidal war. It will be with pain that Mali, contrary to its principles of good neighborliness, will have to carry out its acts of retaliation [les represailles] to the degree the circumstances demand.

Foreign Ministry Workers Statement of Support

AB252113 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Statement issued by staff of the Foreign Ministry in Bamako on 25 December 1985 on the Mali-Burkina border conflict — read by announcer]

[Text] Following the aggression perpetrated against our country by the authorities in Burkina Faso, the workers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as well as workers of diplomatic missions abroad, condemn with indignation this hateful act. They call on the party and the government to find a quick and lasting solution to this border conflict so that we can devote our time to pursuing our development efforts. They reaffirm their support, their unflinching commitment, and their unconditional preparedness in defending, at all costs, the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Mali.

Four Villages Said Recaptured

AB261238 Paris AFP in French 1109 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Dakar, 26 Dec (AFP) — The counterattack launched on Wednesday by the Malian forces made it possible to free four border villages that had been occupied by the Burkinabe Army, Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye told AFP on Thursday. "We have put a stop to the act of aggression and completely freed the four villages without any loss," affirmed the head of Malian diplomacy in a telephone conversation from Dakar. The minister also specified that during the operation only one man was wounded on the Malian side. "The situation has been stabilized," the minister said, adding that Mali was taking "all possible measures to hinder the aggressor from making a fresh attempt."

Foreign Minister on Solution

AB261410 Dakar PANA in English 1340 GMT 26 Dec 85

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Dakar, 26 Dec (APS-SEN/PANA) — "Mali is ready for any solution which respects its territorial integrity and the security of its population", declared the Malian foreign minister Mr Blondin Beye yesterday in a telephone interview with the Senegalese national daily LE SOLEIL. Mr Beye said that on the first day of the armed conflict between Mali and Burkina Faso, "the latter, under the pretext of a national population census, militarily invaded Malian villages located in contested zone". He also confirmed that the armed incursions started on 10 December

when the Ouagadougou Committee of the Defence of the Revolution [CDR], supported by the Burkinabe armed forces "committed violent acts against Malian citizens, arrested village leaders and detained the district commissioners of the Mopti village". He added that "Bamako, through diplomatic contacts, informed friendly countries, demanding a return to the status quo." The Malian diplomatic head lamented that "faced with the uncompromising attitude from Burkinabe officials" refusing to receive the commission of the Non-Aggression and Military Assistance Agreement (ANAD), his country reacted yesterday morning and "liberated its illegaly occupied stretch".

Signatories to the non-aggression and military assistance pact includes Togo, Niger, Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali.

Mr Beye asserted that "this situation will not have any implications on the deliberations of the International Court in the Hague, where the border disputes were unsuccessfully discussed since October [word indistinct].

The Burkina Faso head of state, Capt Thomas Sankara, came to power in a military coup three years ago.

Malian foreign minister further explained that his country "is more concerned with development and peace initiatives than war with its neighbours".

NIGERIA

Reportage on Aftermath of Failed Coup

Speculations Denied

AB241600 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The Benue State governor, Group Captain David Jang, has denied a news report that he said the foiled coup plot was hatched in Benue State. In a reaction to the report, the press secretary to the governor, Mr (Nnaligu Ode), explained that what Group Captain Jang said was that it would have been impossible to uncover the coup plan if security in the state was weak. This was in a reply to a question by some reporters. The reporters had wanted to know if the speculation that some of those arrested were from Benue State meant that security in the state was weak. Mr (Ode) stated that the governor's reply did not in any way mean a confirmation of speculations that the abortive coup plan was hatched in Benue State.

Demand for Executions Cited

AB241620 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Taxi Drivers' Association of Nigeria has called for a speedy trial of those involved in the coup plot uncovered last week. The Association has also demanded that those found guilty should be publicly executed. At a solidarity rally in Lagos today, the association stated that such a measure would serve as a deterrent to others' inordinate ambitions. The association urged the administration not to be discouraged by the activites of such elements. Rather it should hold firm to its human rights and open door policy. The Association reaffirmed its pledge not to increase transport fares during the 15 months of economic emergency.

Identity of Arrested Officers

AB241749 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Lagos, Dec 24 (AFP) — Defense Minister Domkat Bali said today that the arrests of military officers accused of plotting to overthrow the four-month old military government here were continuing, the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reported. The *PUNCH* newspaper reported, quoting foreign sources, that among those arrested were Group Captain Salaudeen Latinwo, a former governor of the west-central state of Kwara and up to now the chief of procurement in the Air Force; Brigadier-General Ibrahim Nassarawa, head of the Infantry Officers School; and Lieutenant Colonel E.I. Obeya, who worked at the military government headquarters at Dodan Barracks. There was no official confirmation that any of these men had been arrested.

Panel Set Up To Investigate

AB231846 Dakar PANA in English 1519 GMT 23 Dec 85

[Text] Lagos, 23 Dec (NAN/PANA) — The Ministry of Defence in Nigeria has set up a high-powered panel to investigate the aborted coup, planned for last week, the *DAILY TIMES* newspaper reported today. The panel, which went into action at the weekend, was specifically instructed to do a thorough job to ensure that only culprits are put on trial. Sources close to the ministry told the newspaper that the court martial that would try those involved would be constituted this week. Defence Minister Domkat Bali on Friday in Lagos announced the attempt to topple the four-month old regime of President Ibrahim Babangida. Maj Gen Bali said that those so far arrested were from all the services and that they would be dealt with in accordance with military law.

NIGER

Entente Council Head Appeals to Mali, Burkina Faso

AB260905 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Niamey, 26 Dec (AFP) - Niger's head of state, Seyni Kountche, appealed today for the Bukino Faso-Mali fighting to stop in his capacity as current chairman of the Entente Council, which comprises Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast and Niger. His appeal, published in the Niger daily *LE SAHEL*, called on Gen Traore and Burkina Faso leader Captain Thomas Sankara "not to do anything which might endanger innocent lives". The two countries should also end all propaganda campaigns and popular agitation increasing the tension between them, General Kountche said. Relations are also currently tense between Burkina Faso and the other Entente Council members. All are neighbours of Burkina Faso, whose radical left military government accuses them of harbouring it enemies.

ANGOLA

KUP Claims Cubans Killed Nine Women

MB251021 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 25 Dec (KUP) — The Cubans killed nine women, and seriously wounded one other, at Ebo village in Cuanza Sul Province on 28 November. According to reports from the region, the Cuban troops infiltrated the village and massacred the people without discrimination. Incidents of this type continued to be perpetrated by the MPLA.

Very recently, five Cubans raped a young girl in Zinxiji village, in Malange Province. Actions of this, and other types, are alienating the population who is forced to abandon areas near Cubans barracks and take refuge in the distant jungle.

LESOTHO

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

MB241236 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] The Lesotho Government and the Government of the Soviet Union have signed an agreement on cultural, scientific, economic, and technical cooperation. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the minister of foreign affairs and the secretary general of the Basotho National Party, Mr Montsi Makhele, said that the agreement is to make bilateral cooperation between the USSR and the Kingdom of Lesotho in different field more extensive and businesslike. Mr Makhele urged both sides to set up working groups which will concretize a program of action. Over a hundred students from Lesotho are studying at Soviet colleges and universities.

SOUTH AFRICA

40 Reported Killed in Tribal Fighting

MB251917 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Our Durban news staff reports that 40 people have been killed in faction fighting at Umbogintwini on the south coast. A spokesman for the police in Durban says fighting broke out between about 2,000 Zulus and 3,000 Pondos early this morning. Police were sent to intervene and the situation is back to normal.

Toll Now 53, Cause Unknown

MB260533 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] The death toll in the latest faction fighting in Natal has risen by at least 13. Police say 53 people were killed in the fighting at Umbogintwini on the Natal South Coast, and nine injured. Groups of about 2,000 Zulus and 3,000 Pondos took part in the fighting. It was reported from Durban yesterday evening that police have separated the feuding factions and that calm had been restored in the area. The cause of the clash between the two factions is not known.

Refugees on Fighting

MB260842 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0826 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Durban, Dec 26, SAPA — At least 53 people — one refugee said it was "many more" — have died so far and about nine hurt in a bloody clash involving some 5,000 warriors, rampaging through a wide area of the Umbumbulu Reserve on the Natal South Coast in two days of continuous vicious fighting. Today the situation is quiet but tense, with riot police on standby.

More than 150 Zulus and one Pondo boy have fled their homes as a result of the fierce clash between Zulus and Pondos using shotguns, knobkerries, assegais, sticks, knives and pangas. The refugees sought cover at the local police station and were transported by bus late yesterday to Red Cross headquarters in Durban. Police were called to the reserve and found the bodies of nine people on Tuesday afternoon.

A spokesman for the police said today that the cause of the clash between a group of about 2,000 Zulus and 3,000 Pondos, which broke out on Christmas eve, had not yet been established. Most of those killed had been stabbed to death.

However, refugees at the Red Cross hall said the fighting was a continuation of the feud between Zulus and Pondos who clashed in the shackland of Malagazi (south of Durban) last month. Refugees said they believed the fighting was over a woman.

According to Mrs Colleen Gwala, the fighting started on Christmas eve, when Zulus from Malagazi assembled along the Umbogintwini River, singing and calling Pondos out to fight. "They then crossed the river and since Tuesday both tribes have been fighting non-stop. A lot of people have been killed and injured. It is much more than 53.

"They are armed with shotguns, knobkerries and other home-made weapons," said Mrs Gwala. She added that on Christmas day they decided to take whatever belongings they could carry and went to the Umbogintwini police station, where they camped. Some residents were hiding in bushes.

Mr Inka Mars, vice-president and chairman of the national executive of the South African Red Cross Society, said the police had asked the Red Cross whether they could take in the refugees.

"They were brought by bus late yesterday. We provided them with blankets and we are going to look after them as long as possible and until it is safe for them to go back to their homes. Some of them are planning to go to the townships where they have families, while the others will remain at the hall," said Mrs Mars. A police spokesman said that while it was quiet early today, the situation was still tense. Dozens of riot squad policemen were on stand-by.

'Heavily Armed' Patrols in Area

MB261216 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Groups of heavily armed men are patrolling townships in the Umbogintwini area, where 53 people have been killed in faction fighting. Mike Robertson has more:

[Robertson] Pondo men armed with sticks, assegais, and crude hand-made firearms were today stopping taxis passing through Umbogintwini. They accused taxi drivers of joining forces with the Zulus and abducting their womenfolk. A shot was fired at a taxi which refused to stop. No one is quite sure why the fighting started, but one of the Pondo leaders said groups of Zulus had attacked them on Christmas eve, so they were forced to kill them. The Zulus did not want Pondos living in the area. Police say more than 5,000 people were involved in the fighting at the height of the clash between the two factions yesterday.

ANC Spokesman on Durban Bomb Blast, Tactics

MB241412 London BBC World Service in English
1309 GMT 24 Dec 85

[From the "24 Hours" program presented by David (Lay)]

[Text] In South Africa, the carnage visited upon Christmas shoppers at a beach resort near Durban will serve to intensify the apprehensions of South Africans black and white, as they contemplate what may be in store for their country in the year ahead. Certainly, yesterday's bombing would seem to mark a deliberate escalation in the armed struggle against the apartheid system. The ANC has led that struggle, but as I heard a short time ago from Thabo Mbeki, spokesman of the organization's headquarters in Zambia, the ANC has yet to claim responsibility for the Amanzimtoti explosion which killed six whites.

[Begin recording] [Mbeki] No, we don't. So far, we have not received any communication about that from any of our people inside the country.

[(Lay)] Do you then categorically condemn the outrage, as Bishop Tutu has done from within South Africa today?

[Mbeki] Well, we do not know the circumstances of this action. I mean, we always ... [changes thought] we have to go by what has appeared in the press, I mean, because there isn't time for us to make any comment at all on it.

[(Lay)] Let us try then to assess the impact of the bombing. Surely, it will make the whites in South Africa even more hard-line, and therefore if this was the work of a black nationalist group, perhaps its effects will be counterproductive?

[Mbeki] From the point of view of the black people, they have taken a lot of killing, a lot of shooting of children, and women, and everybody for a very long time. And I think, sooner or later, patience runs out on the black side also. So, anything is possible in this situation. Now, you may be right about the reaction of the white population, but I think it is important also to bear in mind that there is a black population there which has been at the receiving end of a great deal of brutality for very, very many years.

[(Lay)] Are you saying then that perhaps the ANC now is in the position or you would say has been forced into a position by the South African Government where it would countenance a policy of outright terror?

[Mbeki] No, no, the policy of the ANC remains unchanged, and that policy is that the ANC is not going to conduct a war against civilians. The ANC has no policy of going for soft targets and I don't think that the ANC is about to reconsider that position.

[(Lay)] So the policy of armed struggle will continue on your part?

[Mbeki] The policy of armed struggle will certainly continue. [end recording]

Radio Discounts ANC Interest in Democratic Process

MB260628 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Station commentary: "Democracy and the ANC"]

[Excerpt] It is time for all who believe in democratic principles in South Africa to stop squandering their energies in pursuit of mythical solutions. It is time, in particular, to lay to rest once and for all the absurd notion that the ANC can and should be drawn into negotiations on the country's political development. That organization is and will remain — for as long as it retains its present form — inherently incapable of taking part in any peaceful democratic process. Never has the climate been so auspicious as in the past year for the ANC to reassess its role and to decide to participate in South African affairs as an ordinary political movement.

The government of the country has firmly committed itself though specific policy declarations to moving decisively towards a fully democratic dispensation. The goal is power-sharing among all groups, with a single citizenship in a united country, and the elimination of discrimination.

There is thus consensus among all democratically minded people and their leaders — notwithstanding political differences — on the foundations for further progress. Indeed, the crystallization of that consensus in the past year has removed the very reason which the ANC has always advanced for its campaign of violent opposition to the state. Had those reasons been valid, not merely a smokescreen, some positive reaction might have been expected. Instead, the organization decided at a national executive congress in June to intensify its terrorism campaign and include action against civilians — so-called soft targets. The results fo that decision have been horribly evident in the indiscriminate killings of the past fortnight.

The myth that the ANC might be prepared to negotiate with other parties about the peaceful democratization process in South Africa has been thoroughly dispelled by the ANC itself. It is an antidemocratic organization that seeks power through violence. To engage in argument about negotiating with such a

body is worse than futile. It distracts attention from the real challenge that lies ahead, and thereby worsens prospects for success.

Security To be Tightened Along Lesotho Border

MB241645 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] South Africa is to tighten control along its border with Lesotho. The Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria says in a message sent to Maseru that this has become necessary for security reasons in view of the ambivalent attitude of the Government of Lesotho to acts of terrorism from Lesotho against South Africa.

In the message, the South African Government rejects allegations by Lesotho that it was involved in attacks on South African refugees and on a police post on 20 December. The message informs the Lesotho Foreign Ministry that it was provided earlier with information about terrorism from Lesotho against South Africa. In October this year, the minsiter of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had proposed that such allegations should be investigated by an informal joint security commission. Today's message says that South Africa finds the latest Lesotho allegations incomprehensible and most reprehensible, particularly because Lesotho has failed to react to proposals that such problems be solved through negotiation. It says Lesotho is prepared to make such allegations without any acceptable evidence.

South Africa also draws the attention of the Jonathan government to its unwillingness to permit open political debate and proper elections in Lesotho. It says this has created tensions which are threatenting the stability of the whole of Southern Africa.

Unrest, Incidents of Violence Reported

Police Report Councillor Killed

MB241725 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1717 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 24, SAPA — The following is the police report on the unrest situation around the country to 7pm:

"At Stutterheim in the South Western District three black men were injured when their vehicle was set alight by a group of blacks.

"In the Burgersdorp white residential area the police wounded a black man when they fired birdshot to disperse a group of black stone throwers. Three black men were also arrested in the incident while two policemen were injured.

"At Blood Fountain in KwaNdebele administration board vehicles and offices were damaged by arsonists. Police fired birdshot to disperse them and arrested three men.

"At Atteridgeville near Pretoria a policeman was injured when a group of blacks returning from a funeral stoned a police patrol. Police used tearsmoke to disperse them.

"At the JCI [Johannesburg Consolidated Investments] mine near western area [as received] a black man was killed when mine security officers fired rubber bullets at rioters.

"At Mohlakeng near Randfontein a private vehicle was destroyed when a small group of blacks threw a petrol bomb into it.

"At Nyanga in the western Cape a councillor was killed when a group of blacks stopped his vehicle and set it on fire. He was stuck in the car.

"At Mbekweni near Paarl police used tearsmoke this afternoon to disperse an illegal gathering."

Police Report Four Deaths

MB251451 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1450 GMT 25 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 25, SAPA — The following is the evening unrest report issued by the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria:

At Mbekweni, in Paarl there were a number of illegal and riotous gatherings last night. Police on occasions had to make use of tearsmoke and birdshot to disperse these groups. In one incident a black man was killed.

In the black residential area of Stutterheim, three men were injured when arsonists set fire to their home.

At Hanover in the South Western Districts, a black man was killed when his home was attacked and set alight by a group of blacks early this morning.

At Guguletu in the western Cape, blacks attacked another black man, set him alight, and burned him to death.

At KwaMashu in Durban a black man was also burned to death when his house was set on fire by unknown persons."

5 Deaths In 25-26 Dec Violence

MB260935 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0930 GMT 26 Dec 85

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 26, SAPA — Unrest report received this morning from the SAP public relations division in Pretoria:

"Near Paarl three black men were killed and two injured during a fight between members of AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] and the United Democratic Front [UDF].

"Near Durban vehicles belonging to UDF members were destroyed by fire.

"In Kagiso on the West Rand, blacks stoned police vehicles. Police fired birdshot to disperse stonthrowers. Five youths and a

black man were injured, medically treated and arrested.

"At Magaliesburg five black men were arrested by police during a stonethrowing incident in which private vehicles were damaged.

"At Soweto a black policeman was injured when a handgrenade was thrown at him. He fired shots at the group who threw the grenade. It is believed that one man was injured, but was taken away by the rest of the group.

"In the black township near Stutterheim, two schools for blacks were totally destroyed after being set on fire.

"At Grahamstown blacks set fire to a beerhall. The guard fired shots causing the group to flee. Some returned later and robbed the guard of his firearm.

"At Kayandi near Stellenbosch blacks set fire to private house. An administration board guard fired shots at the arsonists, but reports of injuries were not received. In a second incident, an administration board guard also fired birdshot at group of blacks who had set fire to a beerhall. Two blackmen were injured and arrested.

"At Kayalitsha near Cape Town police found a charred body of an unknown black man.

"In the black township near Middleburg, Cape, blacks stoned a police patrol. One man and two women were injured when police fired birdshot at the stonethrowers.

"The police early this morning found the body of an unknown black man in a street in Soweto. The body was surrounded by a large group of blacks. Tearsmoke was used to drive them off," concluded the report.

Looting Reported

MB241918 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] Ten people were injured when gas cylinders exploded in a hair dressing salon at a shopping center in Athlone near Cape Town today. Five of the injured suffered multiple burns and have been admitted to hospital. One of the cylinders was apparently leaking and someone struck a match close to it. Our Cape Town news office reports that the explosion set fire to the salon, which burned down, causing extensive damage to surrounding shops. The blast shattered display windows at the center and many stores were later looted.

Winnie Mandela Interview Removed From NEWSWEEK

MB241418 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1409 GMT 24 Dec 85

[Text] East London, Dec 24, SAPA — A page in the January 6 issue of *NEWSWEEK* Magazine — in which an interview with Mrs Winnie Mandela appeared — has been removed. The managing director of the South African distributors of the international magazine, Mr W. Dean of Intermag, said today he had asked regional distributors to remove the page "because it is illegal to quote a listed person and Mrs Mandela is still listed."

Mrs Mandela is the wife of jailed ANC Leader Nelson Mandela. Mr Dean said that under South African law he would be viewed as the publisher of the magazine, even though it was printed in Europe, and he could face prosecution if the interview was not removed. The January 6 edition had arrived in South Africa at the beginning of the week and had been forwarded to the various distributors around the country. He said all the distributors ahd received instructions to remove the page but the issue would be available at new stands. Earlier this year, the publications appeal board upheld the government's banning of an edition of *NEWSWEEK* which carried a 14-page series of articles on the unrest in South Africa.

Press Comments on Durban Explosion, Other Topics

[Editorial Report] CITIZEN on Petrol Bombings

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 23 December carries a report by Andrew Thomson on the petrol bombings of the homes of civil rights attorney Priscilla Jana and Mohammed Momoniat, director of the Muslim World League in southern Africa and president of the Nur-ul Islam Centre [illegible]. Momoniat, whose son is secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress and has been in detention since the state of emergency was declared, told *THE CITIZEN* he thought the perpetrators were "obviously Rightwingers."

Durban Bomb Explosion

In a report on the bomb that blew up a vehicle in Durban's central business district, which injured 12 people, the paper reports that "the young Black who threw the hand grenade is believed to be one of those who have been undertaking crash courses in terrorism in neighbouring countries like Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland." The paper also notes that "the ANC has warned repeatedly that it will continue attacking areas in Natal because of the opposition to it by the KwaZulu Government. Only recently Chief Buthelezi stated his total opposition to the ANC and the fact that it was involved in violence."

CITIZEN on Maseru Attack

In its editorial, *THE CITIZEN* discusses the recent violence and compares the landmine explosions at Messina with the raid in Maseru. While some have implied that the Maseru attack "was just as reprehensible as the landmine attack," there is a big difference. The Maseru attack was aimed at specific targets — members of the African National Congress who were openly living, and we presume plotting, in houses just across the border." "Only criticism of the raid, if indeed it was one, might have concerned its timing, since the ANC has discredited itself because of the landmine blasts, which suggested there was good cause, locally and internationally, to shun it. Furthermore, South Africa should not be plunged into the international limelight at a time when its image is so bad." However, since the raid was designed to prevent deaths during the Christmas holidays, it could not have been done at a different time. While the escalation of violence in the region is "regrettable" neighboring countries

would be wise to heed South Africa's warnings about harboring terrorists, "since South Africa, as the past has shown, never issues these warnings lightly."

'Tough Times' for Exports

THE CITIZEN also reports that the South African Foreign Trade Organization, SAFTO, "forecasts tough times ahead for exporters in 1986." Because South African exporters "are facing consumer resistance and boycotts of their goods," SAFTO says that exporters will need to learn new skills and trading techniques. SAFTO also said that next year it will, among other things, continue with its "'USA Focus' program which aims to develop markets in the United States."

CITIZEN on Western Diplomats

In its editorial, Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 21 December contrasts the recent funeral for victims of unrest in Mamelodi, with those for the four children and two women who died in a landmine explosion in Messina. The paper notes that no Western diplomats attended the latter, but they were present in Mamelodi where "their presence could be interpreted as a display of sympathy not just for the victims, but for the radicals themselves." Western diplomats "have all under-estimated the backlash against township violence, the imposition of sanctions, and other punitive measures, and the glad-handling of terrorists, just as they have under-estimated the determination of South Africans not to allow their country to descend into anarchy." Either the diplomats should go to all funerals or to none "and prefarably none," the editorial says. "Only South Africans can mourn the dead, whether they be killed in black against black violence, by police action or by terrorist attacks. And only South Africans can put an end to the violence and set this country on the road to peace once more," the editorial concludes.

U.S. Advisory Committee

A report by Brian Stuart on the U.S. advisory committee for South Africa notes that "National Party sources" said that many of the members of the committee, "through business interests or by funding educational programmes, had some insight into the country's problems." Stuart says that "this was seen as boding well for possible inter-government cooperation, although some concern was expressed at Mr Shultz's statement that the committee would also be required to give advice on 'how U.S. policy can be most effective in promoting equal rights in South Africa and ending apartheid.'"

Harder Line Toward ANC

A report by Peter Honey in Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 23 December on the arrest of Winnie Mandela says that "political observers say Winnie Mandela's arrest signals government's return to a hardline policy against the ANC and anti-apartheid activists, in the wake of last week's landmine explosion which killed six people and wounded five near Messina." Observers point out that police did not take action before when Winnie Mandela frequently borke her banning order and point to last week's raid on Maseru and the statement by the State Security Council warning neighboring states against harboring terrorists as proof that the government is taking a harder line.

BUSINESS DAY on Winnie Mandela

In an editorial on Winnie Mandela's arrest, *BUSINESS DAY* agrees that the government had to respond to the landmine explosion in Messina "in kind," which is the only kind of response "that thugs understand." Mrs Mandela, however, "represents altogether a different diplomatic opportunity. To have ignored the posturing of a cult figure would have displayed enormous self-confidence and tact." But for "her to be grabbed by the wrists and whisked away to the oblivion of South African detention, with all that implies, is not something that will be understood or condoned by our friends abroad," the editorial concludes.

BUSINESS DAY on Maseru Raid

In an editorial on the Maseru raid, *BUSINESS DAY* says that it understands the need for punitive actions against neighboring states harboring terorists, since "too much is at stake for South Africa not to respond and do so decisively." While "there is much that is unpalatable about the social policies of the SA government," "there is nothing about apartheid to equate it with the scattering of landmines to kill or maim anyone who should happen to walk over them." The editorial concludes by saying that until recently it looked as if the government and the ANC "were drifting towards overt negotiation, propelled partly by the efforts of businessmen. It is an enormous pity that the ANC has decided to revert to unmitigated terror, which will do more to hinder rather than advance it own cause."

Agricultural Problems

Linda Ensor and Alan Peat report that the country's "agricultural debt may rise to R11.5 m by the end of the year — farmers face financial crisis, and forecasts for wheat and sugar production look gloomy." Although "SA agriculture is not at a crisis point in terms of production," this year's wheat crop is expected to be 700,000 tons fewer than last year's because of drought in the Orange Free State and excessive rains in the Cape. The chief economist at the Agricultural Union told the paper that "present interest rates and the shortage of production capital could result in farms producing less than optimally this season, which would worsen their financial difficulties."

STAR on Mrs Mandela

In its editorial, Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 23 December says that even by the law and order minister's standard, the handling of "the Winnie Mandela affair this last weekend was hamhanded beyond belief. By their bumbling, the minister and his minions have not only made fools of themselves, they have needlessly provoked emotions inside the country and virtually guaranteed the worst international publicity in weeks — all on the weekend before Christmas; all to no good purpose." Although the intention was to make life a little easier for her, the government showed extreme insensitivity by allowing her to live any place but her own home. The country can no longer tolerate someone like Louis le Grange in the law and order ministry. If Mrs Mandela has committed a crime, charge her. "But let it be a crime in the real sense of the word — not a trumped-up contravention of Gestapo-type legislation that mocks the rule of law. In the meantime, let her free. really free."

DPSC on Individual Rights

In the "Our View" column, the Detainees' Parents Support Committee asks if relatives have the right to a corpse or if parents

have the right to know where their children are. "Under the state of emergency, violation of individual rights is leading to the loss of human dignity. Children are taken and held incommunicado by the Security Police, SAP and SADF. Information about the detainee's whereabouts is withheld and visits to prisons are refused on arbitrary grounds." Although the laws permit visits to detainees, only blacks with access to lawyers can exercise the right, and many do not know where relatives are being detained. "Rights are totally dependent on arbitrary decisions made according to the whims of individual state employees."

Relations with Neighbors

John D'Oliveira, editor of *THE STAR*'s Africa New Service, analyzes South Africa's relations with its neighbors. Although it is the region's dominant economic and military power, "the past year brought a dramatic intensification of the pressures, both internal and external, on South Africa's ruling elite." Neighbors feels the consequences of the economic recession in South Africa and fear the effects of sanctions against it, although some think they will be compensated by the West. "What they really fear is the South African military machine." The various disputes with neighbor countries are reviewed, the most dangerous of which "is the one developing in southern Angola," where UNITA is under attack and South Africa is committed to assisting. Although both the RSA and the USSR are determined that "Angola should not develop — for each of them respectively — into another Vietnam," as the FAPLA-UNITA battles are fought at increasingly higher levels of intensity, the risks increase. The tragedy is that all this would be different if the South African Government "could resolve satisfactorily the issue of full black participation in the country's economic, social and political systems," in which case the West would probably flood the country with investment.

Foreign Workers

An article by Labour writer Sheryl Raine cites a University of Natal researcher as saying the figures of 352,000 legal and a million illegal migrant workers in the country is exaggerated; at most, there are 700,000. The researcher notes that South Africa can use these migrants "as a stick and carrot in its relations with its Southern African neighbours.'" Nevertheless, the numbers will inevitably decline. If peaceful political change is realized, the number of migrants will gradually decline, particularly outside the mining industry, and would begin declining there after 1990. If turmoil continues, unemployment will increase and the number of migrants will also decline. Either way, the neighbors will have to reabsorb the labor, putting a strain on them.

SADF Complains

The SADF disputes a report in the *SOWETAN* on 12 November saying that a Soweto Youth Congress official "claimed that he was hit and threatened with guns by soldiers." The SADF claimed the official had said the report was wrong. The SADF said the man "denied he was assaulted by the soldiers." He told an army inquiry that "he was kicked in the temple and a soldier had trodden on him," but could not identify the soldiers. *THE SOWETAN* said it had signed statements from the man taken before the SADF talked to him and would turn these over to attorneys.

Chamber Rejects Vaal Scheme

"The Vaal Chamber of Commerce and Industries has disassociated itself from the move by the Lekoa Town Council to implement legislation passed empowering the council to get employers to deduct certain amounts of money from salries and wages of employees for the purpose of paying rent arrears," the paper reports. The head of the chamber denied business supported this move. He said that the council had tried to get the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning to pay legislation on the deductions but that business had "protested vigorously against this course of action." He said he did not believe the government would take such an action.

SOWETAN on Mandela Case

In its editorial, the *SOWETAN* discusses the lessening of the terms of detention on Mrs Mandela and notes that she and others banned were not charged in open court but "were tried and convicted without their knowledge by faceless bureaucrats." Even if they had been brought to court, the question would be: " 'Who made those laws.'? It is unfortunate that the spirit of goodwill is absent in a year in which State President Botha "has been shouting reform." "It will be only when the reform affects the fundamental items in our lives, when blacks become part of the law-making process, when people are no longer convicted and punished by faceless bureaucrats, that we will be convinced that there is real reform in this country."

Role of Multinationals

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 23 December says in an article that "multinational companies are fulfilling an important role in the South African economy and, in certain industries, a dominant role." This is according to a report published by the Bureau for Market Research at the University of South Africa. The report follows a research project on the role large companies play in job creation and personnel practices in South Africa. The report quotes a UN publication saying that multinational companies employ between 200,000 and 315,000 black workers or between 2.6 and 4.6 percent of the total black workforce in South Africa. The report says that a minimum of 315,000 job opportunities would be in jeopardy if these companies withdraw from South Africa.

Finality of the Rubicon

Johannesburg *RAPPORT* in Afrikaans on 22 December says in its editorial that "despite the ridicule 1985 was undoubtedly the year of the political rubicon" — a rubicon not only for the National Party but for South Africa's blacks and for the approach of the outside world toward us. The rubicon expression means that the chance to turn back has finally gone. The most important political happening this year was that power-sharing with blacks had been accepted as government policy. Observing that the blacks have also crossed the rubicon, *RAPPORT* say "they will never turn back to a homeland solution and they will never be satisfied with a hidden political apartheid system." The outside world, which has also crossed the rubicon, will not abandon its demands on South Africa. "1985 is thus the year of finality."